

Atkins outlines proposal for Ulster council

Callaghan sees independence as only answer

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr James Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, yesterday advocated "a broadly independent state" of Northern Ireland, to emerge after a process of policymaking which, he said, "would take some years to complete".

Mr Callaghan also abandoned the guarantee, repeatedly underwritten by all British governments since 1949, including his own, that the constitutional status of Northern Ireland could be changed only with the consent of the majority of its people.

Instead, he said that the guarantee would be transferred in the fullness of time, from the territory of Northern Ireland to the people, so that every citizen of the new state would be able to remain a British citizen, while the rest of the state would be able to opt out.

Mr Callaghan, at the outset of his speech, forecast "outrage and outrage" against his proposals. In the Chamber, although he was heard politely by most, with rapt attention by ministers, he appeared to persuade no one.

An hour earlier MPs had given a more positive but notably cautious reception to Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as he developed the Government's own tentative proposals to set up an advisory council for Northern Ireland at Stormont Castle, Belfast.

It would consist, he said, of about 50 politicians who already held elected positions in the province as Members of the European Parliament or as district councillors. They would be nominated by those Northern Ireland parties who had been shown to have a substantial following, he said.

Mr Atkins said that the council would have no legislative or executive role, but he would ask their advice on the province's internal government; ask them to scrutinise legislation; and invite them to consider the future pattern of government.

Mr Atkins put forward his plan with great confidence as Mr Callaghan. He said that the system of direct rule which Parliament last night voted to extend for 12 more months had worked well for several years. "I trust," he said, "that the people of Northern Ireland approved of it. But it contained one important flaw: there was not enough of a Northern Ireland political input into the governing of the province."

Political parties to discuss proposal

It was not yet possible to confer executive or legislative powers upon a representative body in Northern Ireland, which would have to be acceptable to both parts of the community. The basis for that acceptability did not yet exist, and there would be a delay of possibly 18 months or more if one were to be elected. He wished to move more rapidly.

He intended to discuss the proposed council with the Northern Ireland parties before framing his scheme in detail, and then present it to Parliament. Mr Atkins had barely reached the meat of his speech when Mr James Callaghan, Ulster Unionist MP for Down North, interrupted to say he was making a very foolish move by not holding elections. The Government, Mr Callaghan said, was just tinkering with the situation.

Mr Atkins was not put off. "I believe we are proposing a sensible, reasoned way forward," he said. "We are offering an opportunity. It is now for others to respond."

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Mr Callaghan's plan for an independent Northern Ireland surprised his party. In recent days he has consulted a number of senior Labour Party figures, including Mr Michael Foot, the leader, who told his predecessor firmly that he could not agree with it, and would prefer the speech not to be made.

Mr Foot told Mr Callaghan that, in his view, the guarantee to Northern Ireland should neither be withdrawn nor weakened if Protestants' opinion were not to be alarmed. Nor could he believe that the idea of independence would have any attraction for either the majority or the minority in the North.

But nobody doubted that Mr Callaghan was speaking from the deepest conviction. He reminded MPs that it was he who as Home Secretary 12 years ago gave the signal for troops to be deployed on the streets in Belfast.

Since then many well-considered proposals, he told Mr Atkins, had been put forward by well-intentioned ministers. All had failed. They had ended in the wastepaper basket.

Paternalistic attitude of Westminster

Mr Callaghan said he took his share of blame for mistakes. He thought that the paternalistic attitude of Westminster had undermined the sense of responsibility of Northern Ireland's people for their own destiny.

Mr Callaghan had kind words for the Government's new advisory council. And in what appeared to be an inconsistency with his own argument, he said there should be fresh talks at Westminster, and that if the Government asked other parties to join it, he hoped that the Labour Party would do so.

He hoped also that the Government would then state to a Northern Ireland convention that it was not Westminster's intention to produce further proposals, plans or solutions to be dismissed. The people of Northern Ireland would have to produce their own plan.

Mr Callaghan added that Britain would keep an obligation to support the demand for an independent Northern Ireland. There should be a Bill of Rights to safeguard its citizens. "As an independent country, Northern Ireland would be able to make its own decision about both parts of the community. The basis for that acceptability did not yet exist, and there would be a delay of possibly 18 months or more if one were to be elected. He wished to move more rapidly."

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Photographs by Harry Kerr



Two poses of Lady Diana at the centre court. With her is ex-king Constantine, of Greece.

McEnroe and Borg do it again

By Our Sports Staff

John McEnroe was at the centre of another scene at Wimbledon yesterday when he beat Rod Frawley, the unseeded Australian, in straight sets to reach the men's singles final.

McEnroe started badly and there were some rather incidentally over line calls before he received his first warning from the umpire, Wing Commander George Grima, in the seventh game of the first set.

McEnroe asked sarcastically of the umpire's chair: "Can you make another bad call for me?" When he returned to the baseline, McEnroe shouted: "I get screwed by the umpires in this place?" and Wing Commander Grima turned him for unsportsmanlike behaviour.

In the third set he was heard to call a section of the crowd who were heckling him "vultures" and in the end he was penalised a point for saying

"You're a disgrace to mankind", which the umpire interpreted as being addressed to him. McEnroe claimed that he was talking to himself.

Fred Hopley, the referee, was summoned. McEnroe's request but the umpire's ruling was upheld. This penalty point gave Frawley the game for a 5-4 lead.

Apart from these unhappy scenes it was a long, hot match which the 22-year-old McEnroe won 7-6, 6-4, 7-5 in a minute over three hours. McEnroe was seldom at his best and was not allowed to take things easy by Frawley, who has been on the professional tennis circuit since 1976.

Later, there were extraordinary scenes as a press conference. McEnroe objected to the tone and trend of some of the questions and replied in blunt terms about some of the publicity he has received. Journal-

ists became involved in a dispute among themselves; McEnroe left the scene saying that he would never talk to the press again; then at least one punch was thrown.

The name of McEnroe's opponent in tomorrow's final was long delayed as Bjorn Borg, the holder and first seed, became involved in a desperate and enthralling five-set struggle with Jimmy Connors, the third seed. Connors won the first set 6-4 but Borg won the next two 6-3 and 6-4.

Borg broke service in the seventh game of the final set - in his two previous service games Connors had stood at 0-40 but had survived. Borg held his next two service games to win the match 0-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0, 6-4 in three hours and 18 minutes.

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Washington in muddle over F16s for Israel

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, July 2

The Reagan Administration found itself in a muddle today over whether it plans to go ahead with the sale of six F16 fighter-bombers to Israel on July 17.

Yesterday White House and State Department officials had said that the United States proposed to go ahead with the sale of six F16s due on June 12 had been suspended after the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Successive briefings by Administration officials emphasised that the suspension referred only to the one delivery of June 12, part of a package of 75 of which Israel has now received 53 - and not to any other deliveries.

But today spokesmen for both the White House and the State Department appeared to say that all future deliveries of F16s were subject to the outcome of a review on whether Israel had violated American law, which permits arms sales for defence only.

A White House statement said: "The suspension of sales to Israel announced on June 10 applied to the four F16s due for delivery on June 12. The review as to whether there was a violation of arms sales continues and no decision has been made. The review is expected to be concluded before a decision is

required on future shipments of F16s."

It appears that the Administration has, through the delay in completing the review on arms law violation, got itself into confusion.

Had the review on the four suspended F16s taken place reasonably quickly there would have been no problem. It could, as expected, have agreed that they could be shipped and the six would follow normally.

The delay, however, has inextricably linked the two, and the Administration found that the review on the four suspended F16s was effectively saying it was planning to send six aircraft not covered by a suspension, but was waiting for a review on four that were.

The review today in furious official backpedalling and statements that appeared to toughen the stance on Israel, when, in reality, that is the opposite of the Administration's intention. □ Jerusalem. Complex negotiations about the formation of a new Israeli Government continued today amid growing confidence that Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, will have succeeded in forming a viable coalition by the time he returns to office next week. Man in the news, page 6

Two die in Barcelona gas blast

From Harry Debelius Madrid, July 2

Two workers died and at least seven people were injured in a gas explosion in Barcelona's main gas works tonight. The explosion rocked the port area and brought down part of a building near by.

Firemen found the bodies of two workers who had been missing, about two hours after the blast. They are believed to be the only people killed.

The explosion occurred as workmen were carrying out welding operations in the pump room of the installation. The blast badly damaged part of the 18-storey hospital. The 400 patients were evacuated to other hospitals.

One of the members of the welding team was blown clear of the scene and suffered only moderate injuries. Two of his fellow-workers were buried under the rubble. Rescuers heard the voice of at least one of them as they dug through the rubble, but by the time they reached the two trapped men, both were dead.

US to return Iran's assets

US to return Iran's assets (18p) The Supreme Court cleared the way for the return to Iran of \$3,000m to \$4,000m of its frozen assets in return for the release of the American hostages. It ruled that President Carter had tied the power to stop companies with claims against Iran from suing in American courts. Page 6

University chiefs appalled by cuts

By Diana Geddes and Frances Gibb

Universities were shocked and appalled by the size of the cuts in their grants, in one case of more than 40 per cent, announced by the Government yesterday. They pledged to fight them with all the powers at their disposal.

The Association of University Teachers called on its members by the University Grants Committee to close departments to defund the committee. It said that the cuts for some universities were far more savage than anything else being applied throughout the entire public service.

The National Union of Students described the decision to cut 20,000 university places over the next four years as a devastating blow for the thousands of fifth and sixth formers and their parents who were anxiously awaiting O and A level results with the hope that they will be good enough to lead to a degree.

The union would fight alongside other unions in education to ensure that no opportunity was open to present students to lead to future generations of students. Mr David Aarons, NUS president, said:

"The grants committee letter to universities informing them of the size of their individual cuts in grant and students and giving advice as to where those cuts should fall, said that the rate at which resources were being removed from the university system would necessarily lead to 'disorder and disarray' whatever path of change is followed."

The committee estimates that universities will lose between 11 and 15 per cent of their income over the next three years. In order to maintain standards and not to allow the unit of resource (average student costs) to deteriorate too far, it has said that student numbers should be cut over the next four years by 5 per cent over the grant over three years, but he envisaged losing a quarter, or 100, of the teaching staff. At Hull, which faces a 17 per cent cut in students and 20 per cent in grant, the estimate was 100 to 120 staff redundancies out of 500.

Among the hardest hit are four technological universities, Salford, Aston, Bradford, and Surrey, whose shock was all the greater as they believed that their bias toward technology and science would protect them from the extreme cuts. However, the grants committee wants technology and engineering to be concentrated in fewer centres.

It was pointed out that many of the worst-affected universities were in big cities where, other large universities and some feared that the proposals to close departments was a prelude to closer collaboration and possible eventual merger.

Mr Lawrence Sapper, general secretary of the AUEW, was also dismayed that the largest cuts were falling on the technological universities.

Professor John West, vice-chancellor at Bradford, which is losing 19 per cent of its students and 35 per cent of its grant over three years, said he envisaged losing a quarter, or 100, of the teaching staff. At Hull, which faces a 17 per cent cut in students and 20 per cent in grant, the estimate was 100 to 120 staff redundancies out of 500.

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SDP victory

The Social Democrats won a council seat from Conservatives in a by-election at Sedgfield, County Durham, yesterday. Their candidate, Mr David Shaw, polled 658 votes, compared with the Conservatives' 433 and Labour's 367. At Haringey, a Liberal standing with Social Democrat support polled 421 votes, compared with Labour's 329 and the Conservatives' 502.

BL sells Alvis for £27m

BL is selling Alvis, its subsidiary that manufactures Scorpion tanks, to United Scientific Holdings for £27m. The sale, part of the Government's privatisation programme, will move or less double USR's size and is expected to improve Alvis's export opportunities. Page 17

Rolls-Royce wins Japanese order

Rolls-Royce has won a crucial contract from the Japanese Navy, which now makes it likely that all the main Japanese warships will be equipped with British-designed engines until the turn of the century. Page 5

Poland tops the Comecon agenda

Prime ministers of the 10 countries comprising the Comecon economic group began their annual meeting in Sofia, with Poland dominating the agenda, followed by the difficulties associated with closer integration. Page 6

The doctor who fell asleep

Mr Cecil Clotier, the Health Service Commissioner, severely criticised in his annual report two incidents where children were stillborn, one because a doctor fell asleep, and another in which a mother in labour was "shamefully neglected". Page 3

Gatting hits 59 in Lord's Test

England lost four wickets for 191 on the first day of the second Test match against Australia at Lord's. Lawson took three of them, and Gatting scored 59. Page 9

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Cigarette price to rise by 3p

By Our Business News Staff

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday announced a further increase in the excise duty on cigarettes equivalent to 3p on a packet of 20. There will be comparable increases in other tobacco products.

The move, which showed Sir Geoffrey's determination not to compromise on the overall arithmetic of his March Budget, is intended to recoup most of the revenue lost because of an earlier decision to cut by half the 20p a gallon Budget increase on diesel fuel.

Both petrol and diesel were increased by 20p a gallon in March, but, in the face of a Tory backbench revolt against those measures, Sir Geoffrey agreed to reduce the increase on diesel although he resisted all pressure to go back on the petrol increase.

The loss of revenue in the present financial year as a result of the lower diesel duty will be about £85m.

The Chancellor's announcement in the Commons yesterday came in reply to a parliamentary question.

The extra duty on cigarettes and tobacco will amount to £65m. Another £20m will be raised by increasing off-course betting duty from 7½ to 8 per cent and by putting up duty on bingo from 7½ to 10 per cent.

In Whitehall the decision was explained as being intended to maintain the essential integrity of the Budget. Although it is too early in the financial year to draw any strong conclusions, there is some satisfaction among officials that government expenditure and revenue are running close to the levels predicted in the Budget, after making allowance for industrial action by civil servants.

The increase in cigarette duty was greeted with shock and dismay by the tobacco companies. It comes on top of a 14p increase on a packet of 20 announced at the time of the Budget and a rise of 4p in the manufacturers' price a little before this.

Together, those increases initially led to a 15 per cent drop in sales, although demand has begun to rise again. The latest increase is expected to

intensify the decrease in sales, although it appeared, last night that prices in the shops would not be raised for about two weeks.

Betting shops and bingo hall owners, greeted the rise in gambling duties with similar dismay. Coral, which owns 600 betting shops, said: "We are very disappointed that with the present dangerously high level of betting taxation, the Chancellor wishes to seek a further contribution from this source of revenue."

"A higher tax will lead to an upsurge of illegal betting and evasion of duty."

The reduction of 10p on a gallon of diesel was due to come into effect at 6 pm yesterday. The price will now fall from £1.50 to £1.40 a gallon.

The Chancellor also repeated yesterday that the Government might suspend the practice of publishing a minimum lending rate, and allow market forces to play a greater role in determining interest rates. In answer to a parliamentary question, he said: "Discussions on further improvements in monetary control are now well advanced and the Bank of England has just issued a final draft of detailed proposals."

What are things coming to when one can no longer afford to damage one's health?



"When these are put into effect, we shall aim to keep very short term interest rates within an unpublished band. It may then be appropriate to suspend the practice of publishing an MLR."

Bank of England steps in to support sterling

By Frances Williams

The pound had another bad day on foreign exchange markets yesterday, undermined by high American interest rates, falling oil prices and speculative selling. Dealers reported considerable intervention by the Bank of England to halt sterling's slide.

It sank 1.90 cents against the dollar to end London trading at \$1.840, after falling as low as \$1.8740 earlier in the day. This brings its total losses against the dollar this week alone to 64 cents.

The pound also weakened against European currencies such as the Deutschmark, which gained 4½ pence to DM4.544 to the pound from 4.594 on Wednesday. Sterling's effective exchange rate - measured against a basket of 17 leading currencies - dropped 1.0 to 92.1 per cent of its average 1975 level.

The pound encountered heavy selling overnight in New York after it fell below \$1.90 and triggered automatic "stop-loss" selling. Yesterday in London, there was substantial speculation against sterling by banks and other operators.

The recent cut in the price of North Sea oil and weakening world oil prices, combined with a large gap between United Kingdom and American interest rates, have undermined investors' confidence in the pound. Sterling's fall of nearly 25 per cent against the dollar over the past eight months has brought relatively little relief to hard-pressed British exporters. Yesterday's exchange rate against the Deutsche mark, with Germany, Britain's largest single export market, is still 15 per cent higher than it was at the beginning of last year.

Eva Braun may have escaped Hitler bunker

By Stewart Tandler

Thirty-six years after the Second World War, fresh mystery has risen over the fate of Eva Braun, Hitler's mistress and wife for one night. According to an eminent American scientist the body the Russians identified as that of Franklin Braun was probably someone else.

Professor Rainer F. Sognnaes, recently retired from the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of California in Los Angeles, helped to confirm Hitler's corpse beyond question but he raises crucial doubts about the woman's body found near the Berlin bunker where Hitler committed suicide.

He questions the identity on the grounds that: "Very severe exposure to fire caused cranio-facial bone destruction and charring beyond recognition, but despite this a dental bridge with white plastic teeth was supposed to have survived intact. This crucial piece of dental evidence the Russians used to identify the body was not found with the corpse but added later he says. A piece of bridging attributed to the corpse had been made for Eva Braun but never fitted. It was still in a dental workshop when she died."

The man who made the bridge and the dental assistant who should have fitted it were tracked down by Professor Sognnaes. The Russians have told the professor the bridge has been destroyed.

The professor, acknowledged expert on the remains of Hitler and Martin Bormann, presented his findings to an international forensic science conference in Norway. Professor Keith Simpson, one of Britain's leading forensic experts, described him as a first class dental research worker.

Professor Sognnaes would not go as far as suggesting Eva Braun is still alive but suggests there is an enigma about what happened following the last hours in Hitler's bunker. It is possible she still lies unidentified somewhere under East Berlin. In 1947, the Poles claimed she had been captured by the Americans in Austria and was last seen disappearing towards Czechoslovakia.

This week Professor Sognnaes told *The Times*: "I don't want to make up a fanciful scenario of her being smuggled out. I am not suggesting she is alive and well. It is possible another body was found and attributed to her. Based on the forensic evidence there is no basis to claim they recovered her body."

According to witnesses in the bunker of the Reich Chancellery, Hitler and Eva Braun killed themselves on April 30, 1945. Hitler shot himself while Eva Braun took a potassium cyanide capsule - though no survivor actually witnessed her suicide.

Bodies were brought up to the surface and burnt in the shallow depression created near a shell crater. A few days later they were discovered by a detachment of the Red Army.

The British captured the eyes of the bodies. The bodies of Hitler and Braun, discovered by members of Smersh, Russian counter-intelligence, were examined in an autopsy. Both bodies were badly burnt and dental evidence was crucial to identification in both cases.

Professor Sognnaes interviewed the two dental workers who now live in West Germany after being held prisoner by the Russians for ten years. He continued on back page, col 7



Eva Braun: White teeth after the inferno.

witnesses from the bunker. The reconstruction of the last days of the Third Reich which flowed from them became the basis of a report to the military commanders of the city and eventually led to Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper's famous book on the events.

The conclusive evidence about the corpses was held by the Americans and the Russians. In the case of Hitler and Eva Braun, the Americans captured their dentist while the Russians had two bodies and two dental workers.

For years the Russians were coy about what they had found. Stalin refused to reveal that they knew but in 1968 Mr Lev Bezymenski, a Russian journalist, said former intelligence officer, spelt out the findings in a book published in the West.

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Safety chief gives royal wedding fire risk warning

By a Staff Reporter

The lack of fire precautions at St Paul's Cathedral could lead to a disaster at the wedding of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer, Mr James Tye, director general of the British Safety Council, said yesterday.

But many of Mr Tye's findings were disputed by Commander Charles Shears, registrar of the cathedral, and a senior officer of the London Fire Brigade, who said the cathedral was being alarmed.

There would be 2,700 people in the cathedral on July 29, many of them old, and even a small fire or a smoke bomb could create enough panic to cause many deaths, Mr Tye said.

He visited the cathedral on Wednesday with Mr Earl Bevington, an adviser to the safety council and a former chief fire officer. He said he was appalled by what he found and accused the authorities of being so beset with security that fire and safety were overlooked.

One of Mr Tye's criticisms was that there were only four fire exits at the cathedral, one of which would be blocked at the wedding by an extension of the choir stalls for television coverage.

Commander Shears said there were eight fire exits and that the north transept, where the choir would be on the wedding day, was not one of them. He also denied Mr Tye's claim that there were no fire extinguishers on view or that the cathedral's fire officer had no training in fire prevention techniques.

According to Mr Bevington, the first floor where the television crews will be situated was reached only by a narrow wooden staircase. Commander Shears said there were two ways out from everywhere in the cathedral.

Mr David Harn, a senior divisional officer of the London Fire Brigade, said he found on Mr Tye's suggestion that even a small fire or a smoke bomb could cause enough panic to kill many people. Meetings were taking place to discuss arrangements for the wedding and an inspection would be made before the ceremony.

Senior fire officers would patrol the building throughout the day, as was normal for such an event. He added: "We take all the precautions that are humanly possible and what alarms me about the British Safety Council report is that it could give ideas to anyone who wants to make trouble."

Mr Tye said the cathedral should comply with the Fire Prevention Act. There are some 800 visitors there at any one time, 80 per cent of them foreign, many are children, some are even deaf and dumb. There is virtually no provision for their safety.

Buckingham Palace said fire prevention measures at St Paul's were a matter for the cathedral.

The BBC has yet to reach agreement with unions whose members are involved in coverage of the wedding. (Kevin Gillingham writes.) They include the Musicians' Union and Equity. The BBC said it hoped negotiations would be complete by the end of this week or the beginning of next.

The BBC will issue a record of the ceremony on July 31 and hopes to market a video cassette.

The BBC wanted the unions to accept an agreement for the wedding itself but the unions are pressing for a deal which would include other cassettes.

Mr Edward Heath's blistering attack on the Government's economic policies was seized gratefully by both the Labour and Social Democratic candidates in the Warrington by-election yesterday.

For the campaign of Mr Stanley Sorell, the Conservative, it was another speaker in the works.

The former Prime Minister's warning of the disastrous consequences of the rising tide of jobless people fell perfectly into place for Mr Douglas Hoyle, Labour, who is leading his campaign on the unemployment issue.

He hoped that the speech would put "backbone into the Cabinet" and stand up to Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the SDP's increasingly popular candidate, also raised the Heath speech without prompting at his daily press conference.

He said it was what a lot of people were thinking, including many former Conservative voters. It would give Mr Hoyle, who was just as opposed to the consensus approach that Mr Heath said was necessary.

But he failed to invite Mr Heath to join the SDP. When asked if he would, Mr Jenkins said: "No, but his thoughts are not dissimilar to a lot of my thoughts."

Mr Sorell found the speech much harder to take. He did not agree with a lot of what Mr Heath had said and

wondered aloud if the speech had been written by Mr Jenkins, who, for the second consecutive day, he insisted on calling a socialist because he had served in Labour governments.

Towards the end of the first week of the campaign both Mr Jenkins and the SDP, which needs to capture many traditional Labour voters to stand a chance, are becoming locked in a private battle. Mr Jenkins and his colleagues are making most of the running and Mr Hoyle, usually with success, is ignoring attacks to draw him out.

The SDP could take only limited comfort from two opinion polls published yesterday (our Political Staff writes). One showed its standing among voters nationally, and the other the outcome of the Warrington by-election on July 16.

The Labour Party will win Warrington with only a slightly reduced majority, although the social democrats will gain more than a quarter of the vote, according to a survey conducted by MORI (Market and Opinion Research International) last weekend and early this week for Granada Television.

In the national poll, also conducted by MORI, for *The New Standard*, only 32 per cent of respondents said they would vote for the SDP in a general election.

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Facade of optimism amid Ulster despair

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, courageously and effectively assumed the almost statutory facade of optimism over the future of Ulster when he opened the debate on the renewal of the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions order yesterday in the House of Commons.

But it was soon only too clear why the mood of most MPs and of the House of Commons was so gloomy. It was not only that the province was in a state of despair, but that it was so clear that the province was in a state of despair.

Even before Mr Atkins finished explaining his proposals for setting up a representative Northern Ireland Council, Mr James Kilgallon, Ulster Unionist MP for Donaghadee, was leaping to his feet to describe the whole thing as "a very foolish move".

A few moments later, as Mr James Callaghan was announcing his dramatic new initiative of a step by step approach towards a completely independent Northern Ireland, the expressions on the faces of the Ulster MPs were even less appreciative. Within minutes the Rev. Robert Bradford, Official Ulster Unionist MP for Belfast, South, was describing the words of the former prime minister as a counsel of despair and stating that the province would never accept independence.

In spite of the attendance in the early stages of the debate of many of the leading figures in both the Conservative and Labour parties, the attendance on the backbenches must have reflected the pessimistic mood of the House as possibly the most important but certainly the most intractable issue at present facing the British Government.

Even for the much heralded speech of Mr Callaghan there was scarcely more than a couple of dozen MPs on either side of the Chamber.

Mr Atkins was given a respectful cheer by Tory backbenchers as he sat down while the even less enthusiastic response for Mr Callaghan's initiative reflected the poor attendance rather than the feelings of MPs.

It was an unhappy occasion for all, and it was not surprising that the speech of Mr Callaghan, which was written by Mr Jenkins, who, for the second consecutive day, he insisted on calling a socialist because he had served in Labour governments.

Towards the end of the first week of the campaign both Mr Jenkins and the SDP, which needs to capture many traditional Labour voters to stand a chance, are becoming locked in a private battle. Mr Jenkins and his colleagues are making most of the running and Mr Hoyle, usually with success, is ignoring attacks to draw him out.

The SDP could take only limited comfort from two opinion polls published yesterday (our Political Staff writes). One showed its standing among voters nationally, and the other the outcome of the Warrington by-election on July 16.

The Labour Party will win Warrington with only a slightly reduced majority, although the social democrats will gain more than a quarter of the vote, according to a survey conducted by MORI (Market and Opinion Research International) last weekend and early this week for Granada Television.

In the national poll, also conducted by MORI, for *The New Standard*, only 32 per cent of respondents said they would vote for the SDP in a general election.

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£6,645m revenue blocked, staff says

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

The decision taken by the Council of Civil Service Unions yesterday on the next step in its 'pay campaign' comes after what amounts to a 16-week test of the selective strike as an industrial weapon.

With less than one per cent of white-collar civil servants on strike, the unions claim to have stopped payment of £6,645m in revenue, 'disrupted' Royal Ordnance Factory and half of production, seriously slowed the supply of passports, driving and vehicle licences, come close to paralysing the Scottish legal system, and cost British Airways £40m because of cancelled flights.

They have also so far failed to secure a better pay offer for 1981.

According to the unions, strikes by inland revenue and customs and excise staff, accounting for nearly half of the 5,194 civil servants taking selective action, and including 1,400 computer personnel, have halted the payment of £4,725m in PAYE, income tax and national insurance, and £1,920m in VAT.

The Treasury does not confirm or deny that figure, standing by its estimate that net revenue loss, including repayments which are not being

made, is £4,500m. It challenges the growing view among civil servants' leaders that the increasing proportion of the lost revenue could prove irrecoverable because of the huge task of enforcement that awaits the Government when the dispute is over.

The unions, however, argue strongly that the interest incurred on higher borrowing attributable to the halting of revenue payments, which they estimate at £70m, equivalent to an additional 2 per cent on the offer, will not be recovered.

The lay-offs of 808 industrial civil servants at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Bishopclee, in Scotland, which makes propellers, demonstrates 'the impact of selective action in the Ministry of Defence, though officials point out that at least some production is going ahead in all 11 of the factories.'

The unions say strikers, ranging from clerical workers to senior scientists, have seriously hampered production of small arms, armoury and tanks, and rocket launchers. Half the Ordnance output is exported.

The unions claim to have halted 93 per cent of stores supplies to naval dockyards, caused lengthy delays to the

reporting of conventional submarines and brought the Polaris fleet of four submarines to seriously below peak capacity.

The Royal Navy, while making no secret of the delays to refits on some conventional submarines, has refused to be drawn into what it described yesterday as "an unwelcome public dialogue in areas of sensitivity and national security" by discussing the impact on Polaris submarines.

Delays to stores, the Navy said, had forced the senior service to use its ingenuity to ensure that operational capacity remained nearly at a million. British Airways gave a warning last week that if the programme of one-shift strikes by air traffic control staff, which began on April 27, continued until the end of August, losses could total £30m. Cargo imports through Heathrow and Gatwick have also been delayed by sporadic strikes of customs computer staff.

The total backlog of known passport applications held up in the pipeline is estimated at 145,000, excluding those tied up in mailbags that have not been opened.

Strikes by staff at four computer centres of the Department of Employment and of

the Government have been considered using Service personnel to take over air traffic control.

However, in view of the fact that this would be a serious intensification of the Civil Service unions' action, ministers have rejected the idea.

Well-trained Royal Air Force air traffic controllers, competent in modern air traffic control techniques, work alongside the civilian air traffic controllers at the West Drayton centre, outside Heathrow airport.

Control of both civil and military aircraft over England and Wales is exercised on a 50-50 basis between civilians and Service controllers, and the Government's study shows that it would be perfectly feasible to transfer the RAF controllers to take over responsibility for the whole.

Already 75 Conservative backbenchers, led by Mr Cranley Onslow, MP for Woking, chairman of the Select Committee on Defence, have signed a Commons motion stating that they are no longer prepared to tolerate the continuing inconsiderate behaviour of those air traffic controllers who are causing serious damage to British civil aviation and safety, and to the travelling public. They call on

the Government to make alternative provision for this essential service.

Mr William Rees-Davies, Tory MP for West, who takes a close interest in the tourist trade, proposes that the Government should introduce emergency legislation to protect essential services "by declaring it unlawful for any air traffic controllers to strike, or to be on strike, in other overseas countries".

Mr Robert Atkins, MP for Preston, North, an officer of the Tory backbenchers' aviation committee, said that while the backbenchers did not want the Government to 'give way to the air traffic controllers, there were alternatives: they could use the Royal Air Force, or International Aeradio or other private enterprise companies.

The aviation committee proposed that Mr Prior should immediately outline in public labour union clauses in commercial contracts, which are more common in the building industry than elsewhere.

Like the engineering employers, who when their evidence to the minister's committee of contract, the building companies do not want collective agreements with unions to be made legally enforceable, nor do they favour compulsory arbitration.

They want the provisions on secondary action of the Employment Act, 1980, to be tested and, if necessary, strengthened before thought is given to any further curbs in this area.

Mr Pym said the Government was concerned about the effect on travellers of the strike action by controllers who were not actually members of the Civil Service. He did not take up the point of a request for the Government to consider private enterprise substitutes.

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Sanctions sought on 'wildcat' strikers

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Building industry employers want the Government to put a risk the funds 'wildcat' strikers, but they do not want the political revolution of the Conservative backbenchers over the closed shop.

In representations to Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, on his Green Paper on trade union immunities, the National Federation of Building Trades Employers says: "The general issue of closed shop agreements is not of great concern to us, as we are very few such agreements are to be found in building and we envisage that this will continue to be the case."

But the 10,000 building firms in the federation, employing several hundred thousand workers, do want immunity withdrawn from trade union members whose members take industrial action before exhausting disputes procedures.

They want changes in the law to permit employers damaged by unofficial stoppages to sue the individual strikers, and for their unions for an injunction or for damages.

The employers have told the minister that building work is subjected "all too frequently" to sudden disruptive action in which procedural arrangements for resolving disputes are disregarded.

"Here are strong economic pressures on employers to reach a rapid settlement in these cases, and these pressures are being used to force certain building operations such as concrete pouring, plastering, where costly materials can be wasted completely if a dispute cannot be settled quickly," they say.

The federation thinks it doubtful that legal action against individuals or unions responsible for unofficial strikes would be brought often, but argues that a change in the law could have a powerful deterrent effect.

The possibility of this happening would have the effect of encouraging unions to do more than at present to ensure proper observance of agreed procedures for resolving disputes, the employers say.

In asking employers to propose that Mr Prior should immediately outline in public labour union clauses in commercial contracts, which are more common in the building industry than elsewhere.

Like the engineering employers, who when their evidence to the minister's committee of contract, the building companies do not want collective agreements with unions to be made legally enforceable, nor do they favour compulsory arbitration.

They want the provisions on secondary action of the Employment Act, 1980, to be tested and, if necessary, strengthened before thought is given to any further curbs in this area.

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Sleeping doctor is censured by ombudsman

Maternity services were severely criticized in a report published yesterday which highlighted two cases of children being stillborn.

In his annual report Mr Cecil Clothier, Health Service Commissioner, described the incidents—one in which a doctor fell asleep, and another in which a mother in labour was "shamefully neglected".

The two cases highlighted were among 647 investigated by Mr Clothier last year, 15 per cent more than in 1979 and the second highest number since his office opened in 1973.

In the first case he reports on a midwife who became concerned about the baby's health and called a senior registrar at 3.40am and again 10 minutes later, but he did not arrive until 4.30.

Mr Clothier said the registrar had fallen asleep. He was greatly upset by the events and deeply regretted that the baby was stillborn.

"Overpowering fatigue is a familiar torment to many who work in the caring services. But duty is not to be denied and the senior registrar should have come when called."

Vets oppose electric shock machine

A machine which immobilizes animals with a mild electric shock along the spine should be banned, veterinary surgeons said yesterday.

The British Veterinary Association said a legal loopbottle would allow such a machine to be sold in Britain before it had been shown not to be cruel.

Mr Neal King, chairman of the animal welfare committee of the association, said: "We would like it proven to us that this is not a highly specialized form of torture of the animals in our care."

"We, with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, are not satisfied that the machine is humane. There is evidence to show that there is aversion to it. Animals do not come trotting back a second time."

The machine, which uses torch batteries, was developed in Australia where it is used to keep sheep still for shearing. Distribution rights for Britain are held by Mr Anthony Rosen, one of the most flamboyant figures in British agriculture in the 1970s, who once presided over one of the largest dairy farming empires in Europe.

He said yesterday that it would revolutionize animal handling because it kept large animals rigid, upright, and apparently conscious. Yet tests with a hot branding iron had shown that cattle did not feel pain when the machine was switched on. "There is no question of poor beast," he said. "The beast is absolutely delighted."

He had arranged for the machine, which will sell at about £400, to be made under licence in Britain. But he would not sell it here until it had been accepted by veterinary authorities.

Mr King said that the law demanding clearance by official tests before veterinary drugs were sold did not apply to machines. The only way to stop their spread was through successful prosecutions of a succession of users on grounds of cruelty. He said Mr Rosen's machine should be submitted to experiment under Home Office licence issued under the Cruelty to Animals Act.

Mr Rosen said that if he applied for a licence and conducted tests, vets would suspect the results. "I am very hurt by their attitude. We are only too ready to co-operate with them."

Executives cleared of tax fraud

Ten executives of William Press and Son, the building company, and an outside accountant, who were alleged to have taken part in an income tax fraud of more than £500,000 were cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday on the direction of Judge Lawson, QC.

Their acquittal came after two-and-a-half weeks of legal submission in the absence of the jury, after the prosecution case had ended.

The accused were: Alan Gravell, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; Samuel, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; Cecil Nibbs, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; Raymond, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; David, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; John, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; Peter, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; Robert, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; Thomas, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son; and William, aged 45, a financial director of Press and Son.

They had all denied conspiring together and with others unknown, between January 1, 1972, and May, 1977, to defraud the Inland Revenue. The company also denied the charge, which involved the alleged non-payment of taxes by workmen on building sites.

When the jury returned to the court yesterday, Judge Lawson said: "I have come to the conclusion, on all the evidence which has been before you, that there is no case fit and proper for you to consider."

All the defendants were granted their defence costs, estimated at £250,000, out of central fund.

Bishops bolster the Prayer Book

New measures to fortify the position of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, which is the subject of the 1980 Alternative Service Book in the Church of England have been approved by the bishops, a development hailed by the Prayer Book Society as a moral victory.

The supporters of the traditional form of worship successfully introduced private members' Bills into the Lords and Commons in April, in an attempt to safeguard the Book of Common Prayer.

The Prayer Book Society, which was behind both Bills, claimed that the Alternative Service Book was being unfairly promoted, squeezing out the prayer book in spite of demand from ordinary churchgoers.

In a resolution published today, the House of Bishops of the General Synod of the Church of England has announced three steps to reinforce the Book of Common Prayer in the light of these expressions of parliamentary concern.

Each bishop has agreed to raise the matter with the bishop's council in each diocese. Secondly, the General Synod is to be asked to authorize the reissuing of its Guide for Parishes, which sets out the method by which parishes have to decide which form of service to use. One of the complaints most often made by the Prayer Book Society is that incumbents have put pressure on parishioners to abandon the Book of Common Prayer in favour of the Alternative Service Book.

The third step is to draw the matter to the attention of the governing bodies and principals of the 14 theological colleges, which train ordinands for the ministry. The Prayer Book Society has complained that only three of the colleges is the 1662 book given parity with the 1980 book and in most it is ignored. That was producing a generation of priests who had no knowledge of the 1662 book, the society claimed.

The colleges will be asked to consider the matter with a view to securing the use of both the Book of Common Prayer and of the Alternative Service Book in teaching and in worship.

Professor David Martin, vice-president of the society, said: "This is really positive. It really is shocking that young clergy have been arriving in the parishes never having used the Prayer Book. What we are hoping is that they give the Prayer Book full parity with the new book in every college."

Whitehall publishes spending concordat

By Peter Hennessy

A new concordat which gives the Treasury greater powers to control spending and to secure efficiency in Whitehall departments was published yesterday. It was agreed last month by Cabinet ministers.

The document, which has the first support of the Prime Minister, bears the imprint of Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer, her adviser on elimination of waste. Rayner often stated publicly his conviction that a better relationship between the two central departments, the Treasury and the Civil Service Department, and the big employers and spenders on the periphery was needed if improvements in Whitehall efficiency and economy were to be achieved.

The paper, *Control of Expenditure: Departmental Responsibilities*, was circulated by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer. It enshrines the dominant role of the Treasury in controlling spending, of the Civil Service Department in spending, and of the periphery in the pursuit of efficiency.

Taken together with a joint Treasury and CSD letter to permanent secretaries (published in *The Times* on May 27) instructing them to bring their internal audit procedures up to standard, it amounts to an unmistakable reassertion of authority by the central departments over the rest of Whitehall.

Since the visit of the International Monetary Fund after the collapse of sterling in 1976, relations between the Treasury and the rest of Whitehall have been tightened. A process culminating in yesterday's development.

The latest paper prescribes the central authorities' right to intervene to ensure that ministries are operating adequate systems for controlling money and people, and to ensure that where there are deficits action is taken promptly and effectively.

A crucial role is assigned to finance and establishment officers in departments: in effecting the new relationship with the Treasury and the CSD.

The theme of the concordat is the overriding need to ensure spending and manpower do not exceed ceilings agreed by ministers with the central departments. There is an insistence that the Treasury and the CSD are consulted in advance on any proposals that would involve extra spending, and that they are involved in a formative stage in any policy discussions that could have substantial financial or manpower implications.



The Dalai Lama, on a private visit to London, meeting members of Britain's Tibetan community in Westminster yesterday. During the meeting, he took tea, ate sweet rice and was made the traditional Long Life offering.

Higher rates urged to cut grants

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

Householders should pay more for local government services, in order to increase the accountability of local councils to their electorate, Mr Tony Travers, research fellow at North-East London Polytechnic, says in a report published today.

Explaining this uncomfortable result for domestic ratepayers, Mr Travers says: "That unless this happens soon, local authority finance will strangle democratic government."

Mr Travers suggests a number of measures to reduce the level of Government grant, although this would increase many rate-bills. In areas such as Wales and Yorkshire the increases would be very large, and it would be desirable for authorities' expenditure met by he rates is very small. Domestic ratepayers often contribute less than 15 per cent of an authority's total spending, and in Wales it is as low as 7.2 per cent, he says.

Figures for 1980-81 show that in six counties, Powys, Mid-Glamorgan, Ceredigion, Dyfed and West Yorkshire, more than 70 per cent of local spending is met by Government grants.

In Lancashire the Government contributes £2.77 for every £1 paid by ratepayers, compared with Surrey, which receives 79p in government grant for each £1 paid in rates. Rates, Grants and Accountability (NELP, Livingstone Road, London E15 2LJ, £3).

The proportion of many of the domestic rate contributions in parts of the country where they are low to be increased into line with the highest.

Frequent and comprehensive revaluations would make rates more acceptable. Unpopularity because of higher rate bills would make it necessary for councillors to work harder at justifying their actions and to provide the services people were willing to pay for. This is increased accountability.

Mr Travers advocates the abolition of domestic relief, at present 18.5p in England and 56p in Wales, and a reduction in the Government's overall grant percentage of 60 per cent.

The proportion of many

Gr of Bb attack cu in services

By Kenneth Gosting

The latest cuts imposed by the Government on the BBC's external services would seriously damage their international effectiveness, the BBC board of governors said yesterday in a statement.

It asked if the financial savings of 3.5 per cent justified a reduction of 8 per cent in external broadcasting. Mr George Howard, the chairman of the board, is to make representations to the Foreign Office.

The board said the implications of the Government's intentions to end broadcasting in seven language services and to abolish the BBC's transcription service were serious. It was the seventh cut in external services' funding in eight years.

The loss of carefully built-up audiences in important parts of the world would be almost irreparable; there was a risk that other broadcasters would take up the valuable frequencies those services used; and the expert knowledge of the staff would be lost.

The board viewed with dismay the proposal to disband the transcription service, which supplied the best of British radio programmes to more than 80 countries.

"The new cuts proposed would seriously damage the international effectiveness of the BBC's external services at a time when other countries throughout the world are increasing their services. The release of delayed investment in transmitters, while welcome, only restores some, though not all, of the projects cut in economies in 1979."

Stress hits teachers throughout the world

The rap, trial museum McGreggor, which the pub July 2 reached a new stage, a serious with the launching of a series of the Institute of Industries, Archaeology.

This is a teaching venture conceived in 1978 by Professor J. P. Harris, of the Department of Economic and Social History, at Birmingham University, and Dr Neil Cossons, director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. The result of the collaboration will be a postgraduate diploma course at the University beginning in October. There will also be short courses for professionals in related fields and for the public at large, and a wide research programme.

Professor Harris said that while museum staff and academics had played some part in the development of industrial archaeology, much of its success had been due to a spontaneous popular interest and the enthusiasm of energetic and intelligent lay people. That vital popular audience which those in ivory towers neglect at their peril.

He and his colleagues were taking on a tough financial task in the depths of recession and those who asked their money—whether museum or university—could only go so far and contemplate support for about three years, after which the institute had to cover costs. Companies that took a pride in their history might help, he said, by a grant or an underwriting of a few hundred pounds to mount a short course in an ambitious and satisfying way.

Although Miss Kingston, in *The Times* had had some fun about the subject (June 29), Professor Harris said he did not see there was a danger of the public becoming involved in an unhealthy preoccupation with the past.

"I believe, on the contrary, that both individual inspiration and national morale can benefit from an appreciation of the almost incredible feats, transforming industrial production and creating new wealth, that Britain pioneered."

SANDS MARCHER IS FINED £39

A demonstrator, arrested by a police commander during the banned Kilburn march in support of Robert Sands, the Irish hunger-striker, was fined £39 at Willenden Magistrates Court yesterday.

Keith Andrew Hayton, aged 23, unemployed, of Clapton Common, Clapham, admitted wilfully obstructing Commander Stanley Squire of Q Division in the execution of his duty.

AROUND THE WORLD ON 19 GALLONS.



Quite incredible. But quite possible—as 12 year old Conrad Beale proved in the 'Cyclone Special' at Silverstone on Wednesday. As one of 61 entrants in Shell's annual Mileage Marathon, Conrad (driving for the Cyclone Hovercraft Team), set out to push fuel economy to the limit.

The Cyclone Special came first with an astounding 1,309 mpg. Several other entrants achieved over 1000 mpg. Shell products helped the entrants test and develop their machines from the start.

When it comes to research into fuel economy, you can be sure Shell's playing its part.



Councils accused of neglecting duty to disabled

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Five councils are under investigation for refusing to provide services to disabled residents, after complaints to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, that they are breaching the law. Permission is being sought from the Attorney General to take Mr Jenkin to court for not using his default powers against other local authorities which have introduced blanket policies to stop providing services under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

The investigations and possible legal action will be raised in the Commons today during an Opposition supply debate on the International Year of Disabled People.

The Opposition motion calls on the Government to initiate discussions with relevant organizations to produce a programme of action to maintain the impact of the international year after 1981.

Action against local authorities who refuse to provide services required under the Act comes after 14 disability organizations combined to monitor any effects of spending cuts on services for disabled people. The Act requires councils to identify disabled residents and provide them with specified services.

More than 400 cases have been investigated under the new project and most have been resolved when the attention of local authorities was drawn to their legal obligations. But some have continued to act in what the charities have been advised is an illegal manner.

Some have refused to assess need, others have accepted a need but failed to provide a service, and some have withdrawn services.

So far, eight councils have been referred to Mr Jenkin for not providing services under the Act, and he has agreed to institute inquiries in five cases. They range from the refusal to provide holidays for disabled people in Oxfordshire and Brent, to the withdrawal of home helps in West Sussex and telephone rebates in Northumberland.

Gwynedd is also to be investigated for failing to supply meals on wheels.

No decision has yet been reached on one of the remaining cases, but Mr Jenkin has refused to act in the other two on the ground that the individuals affected are not willing to be named.

Mr Jenkin has told the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (Radar), which is administering the investigation project, that he can investigate the failure of an authority to meet the needs only of a particular named individual.

Radar has been advised that Mr Jenkin's decision amounts to a misdirection of his default powers, under which he can order a local authority to provide the services defined in the Act. They are seeking leave from the Attorney General to appeal to the divisional court for a ruling that Mr Jenkin has a general duty to ensure that all disabled people are met.

In a briefing prepared for MPs for today's debate, Radar says that if Mr Jenkin's decision is allowed to stand it will be impossible to stop local authorities continuing to break the law when the complainants want to remain anonymous.

Many disabled people do not want to be identified, the briefing says, because they are receiving other services from their councils and do not want to endanger those.



Tradition, style, civility, practicality: Spectators and competitors sporting a wide range of headgear on the opening day of the Henley Royal Regatta.

Cuts in the universities

20,000 fewer places for students by 1985

By Diana Geddes and Frances Gibb

Universities are to have their grant cut by an average of 17 per cent over the next three years, and their number of home and EEC students cut by 7.5 per cent, or 20,000 places, over the next four years. This is made clear in the figures announced by the Government yesterday.

The cuts are highly selective. Seven universities will lose more than a quarter of their grant and between 14 per cent and 30 per cent of their home and EEC students. Four of these seven are former colleges of advanced technology. They are Salford, Aston, Bradford, and Surrey.

However, two other technological universities, Bath and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, are the only institutions, other than the two postgraduate business schools, whose home and EEC student numbers will increase. Overall, the University Grants Committee plans a slight increase of numbers in science and technology.

The table is based on figures released by the Government and the committee yesterday. However, great care should be taken in its interpretation. The home and EEC student figures for 1979-80 are the committee's target figures for that year, not actual numbers. Many universities exceeded their targets, with the result that their planned loss of students is greater than indicated.

The grants committee says that the expected loss in universities' income of 11 to 15 per cent between 1983-84 and 1985-86, attributable to the effect of the Government's full fees policy for overseas students and the cut in grants for home and EEC students, means that the present level of home and EEC student numbers cannot be maintained.

A reduction in home and EEC student numbers of about 5 per cent by 1983-84 or 1984-85 over 1979-80 levels, had therefore been assumed. The committee says, however, because there are some 9,000 more students in universities than had been allowed for by the Government, the actual drop will be 7.5 per cent, representing 20,000 places.

The difference between the targeted loss and real loss of students in some universities is substantial. Stirling, for example, is to suffer a loss of only 18 per cent according to the target figures, but a 27 per cent drop from its actual present numbers. Bradford says it will have to cut its home students by 25 per cent, not the 19 per cent given by the committee.

The changes in grant level in the table are based on updated estimates of the current year's grant (calculated by *The Times*) according to a formula suggested by the committee. They are rough estimates, as each university's grant is composed of different elements which have to be updated in different ways to bring them to current price levels and make them comparable to the grant figures given by the committee for the next three academic years.

According to *The Times*'s calculations, the biggest proportionate grant loss over the next three years will be suffered by Salford (44 per cent), Keele (34 per cent), Bradford (33 per cent), and Aston (31 per cent). They are all also due to lose a large proportion of their home students.

However, some institutions which are due to lose a relatively small number of students, or none at all, are also to lose a substantial amount of grant. The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, for example, is to have its grant cut by 30 per cent, while its home student numbers are due to increase. Manchester Business School is to lose 24 per cent of its grant, while its home students are due to increase by more than 40 per cent (from a very small base).

Part, but by no means all, of those differences can be explained in relation to the proportion of overseas students at a particular institution. The loss of grant income in the grants committee's figures is attributable to the cuts in respect of both home and overseas students, but institutions will be able to recoup some of the loss due to overseas students in the form of fees.

The total loss of grant (as opposed to income) for all universities over the next three academic years is about 17 per cent. That is made up of a cut of about 9 per cent for home students, 2 per cent in respect of overseas students, and 6 per cent for the adaptation of the system to a lower level of funding, and the remaining 6 per cent or so being the last part of the cut in respect of overseas students.

The committee's recommendations for changes in the pattern of subject provision in the university system as a whole are expected to lead to a slight shift of students away from the arts and into science and medicine, so that arts will account for 48 per cent of all students, science 25 per cent, and medicine 10 per cent, instead of the 1979-80 pattern of 50:41:9.

London, much of the advice is extraordinarily specific. London takes up a fifth of the total grant for universities but is due to lose 4 per cent of its students, about 17 per cent of its grant.

a matter entirely for the universities itself.

Oxford: The proposals were not unexpected and the university can cope, although it will not be easy, Dr A. J. Dorey, the registrar, said.

Cambridge: Dr Ian Nicol, secretary general, said: "We are not as desperately unhappy as some will be; but we are not positively grunted either." Cuts had been asked for on the arts side, including social sciences. But the university has been asked to maintain anthropology, Hungarian, ancient Egyptian languages, Egyptology and Sanskrit.

Kent: Dr David Ingram, the vice-chancellor, said his first reaction was that the cuts were not too unreasonable, given that there had to be cuts. Kent has been asked to maintain anthropology, Hungarian, ancient Egyptian languages, Egyptology and Sanskrit.

Keble, Staffordshire: The cuts are to be confined in the arts and social sciences, with emphasis on the latter. The university has more than 4,000 arts and social science students, more than 600 science students. Russian is likely to go. The four-year courses, on which half the students are enrolled, are to be looked at from the point of view of the first foundation course. Mr Brumel, Raylins, director of information services, said: "The cuts are

far worse than we feared."

Aston, Birmingham: The cuts were incomprehensible, Dr Frederick Crawford, the vice-chancellor said, because Aston had the best record in the country for graduate employment. Over three years it would lose 1,000 of its 4,500 students. The rapidity of the contraction was so great that only early retirement, mobility incentive schemes or redundancy payments could increase the turnover to reach the necessary levels.

Essex: The grants committee seems to envisage reversal of the university's 60:40 balance between arts and sciences, a spokesman said. There will be a significant decrease in the numbers of arts students (about 13 per cent), a smaller decrease in social studies students and a substantial increase, about 20 per cent, in physical and mathematical sciences.

A casualty seems likely to be biological sciences. Salford: Mr Edward Parker, pro-vice chancellor, said: "We are shocked, appalled and dismayed. And we hope to be able to convince the grants committee of the error of this set of decisions. They are only tentative, and we are certainly intended to fight them."

Hull: Sir Roy Marshall, the vice-chancellor, said his reaction was consternation and anger. He estimated that if the cuts went through, the university would have to shed between 100 and 200 of its 500 academics. "But we plan to use every means at our disposal to get this manifest injustice corrected."

Stirling: Sir Kenneth Alexander, the vice-chancellor, said that if carried out, the cuts would severely damage the effectiveness of the university's work. Applications for places at Stirling had increased by more than a third last year, an increase greatly in excess of the national average.

Manchester Institute of Technology: Professor Robert Haseldine, the vice-chancellor, said he thought that they had been brought quite fairly. Most of the grant loss was in respect of overseas students, some of which could be made up in increased fees. He said that the grants committee would seek a 50 per cent reduction in the time-scale given. The university faced a 50 per cent reduction in science students, which meant a cut of 900, and a 10 per cent reduction in arts.

Cuts could not be made across the board and there would have to be closures. Departments under threat included pharmacy, mathematical sciences and medical sciences. "This last is a particular blow as we have been doing a great deal of valuable cancer research, into areas such as chemotherapy."

The university had been told to concentrate on its modern languages centre, maintain its European studies and its human philosophy etc studies and humanities.

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Science report

Evidence of sunspots 600 million years ago

By the staff of "Nature"

Striking evidence has been found in Australia that the 11-year sunspot cycle has been working at least since pre-Cambrian times more than 600 million years ago. If confirmed, that discovery will have far-reaching implications for understanding of the sun and the solar system.

The key to the new finding lies in the ancient rocks of the Elatina Formation in South Australia. Dr G. Z. Williams of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, has found 1,760 clearly defined layers within rock 30-60 metres deep, which he suggests represent annual deposition on the bottom of a large lake during an ice age at the end of the pre-Cambrian era.

Most of the layers are a fraction of a millimetre thick and are composed of sand and slightly darker silt. On average, every twelfth layer is made of a clayey material and iron oxide and is much darker in colour.

Other patterns seem to be superimposed on the basic cycle of 11 pale layers followed by a dark one. Thin cycles always seem to be followed by thicker ones, and the thickest cycles seem to occur every 25-27 cycles, with significant 12-14 cycles. Mathematical analysis revealed another weather variation occurring every 30-31 cycles.

Dr Williams suggests that the layers were formed each year from fine silt and sand carried in the summer meltwaters from glaciers. The thicker layers would have been deposited during warmer summers when the volume of meltwater was particularly great. Hence the basic cycle indicates the waxing and waning of summer temperatures over 11-year periods.

The unusual, dark layer, Dr Williams says, was probably deposited during the coldest winters when the lake may have frozen. The changes over several cycles suggest changes in climate over longer time scales of about 90, 145 and 290 years.

The most likely explanation for those variations, according to Dr Williams, is a sunspot cycle. Over the past 200 years, since records were kept, sunspot activity has waxed and waned in a similar way to that now revealed in the pre-Cambrian rock layers.

Hence, sunspot minima have occurred every 11 years with every other minimum being lower than the previous one. Although the activity of contemporary sunspot cycles accord well with the cycles found in the Elatina rocks, Dr Williams' hypothesis remains controversial. Sunspot cycles today have little effect on weather, so why should their effect have been so much greater in pre-Cambrian times?

One possibility, according to Dr Williams, is that the earth's pre-Cambrian magnetic field might have been much less than today's, allowing a greater variety of heavier solar particles to reach the earth.

If Dr Williams' conclusions are right, then the behaviour of the sun has not changed much for the past 600 million years. In the past few years, however, solar physicists have been increasingly concerned with the possibility that there are changes in the behaviour of the sun over periods of 100 million years or so.

It would be surprising if the sunspot cycle, though linked with instability in the outer layers of the sun, had survived intact throughout such periods of change. Source: *Nature*, vol 291, page 624 (25 June 1981).

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COUNCIL IS DEFIANT OVER CUTS

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

The Lothian regional council yesterday refused to reduce its budget despite a threat from Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, to cut its rate support grant by £53m.

The Labour-controlled council is one of seven asked by Mr Younger to submit proposals for reducing their budgets, which he described as excessive and unreasonable. Yesterday the council voted by 24 to 21 that its spending proposals were correct and that it would not consider any cuts.

Councillor John Crichton, convenor of the council, said the Labour group was elected on a programme of social priorities. The were pleading for more money from the Lothian, but for every local authority in Scotland.

The council has persistently defied the government guidelines, claiming that education, transport and the social services would all suffer and that as many as 5,000 council employees would be made redundant if they obeyed the Government.

Councillor Brian Meek, leader of the Conservative group on the council, gave a warning that there were no soft options left. He said the region was carrying far too many staff and that Mr Younger was willing to negotiate and had invited the council to do so.

Another member warned the council that it was not taking on a whim of a minister. "You are taking on a central plank of government policy with no chance of winning."

IN BRIEF

Baronet formally discharged

Sir Rupert Mackeson, grandson of the founder of Mackeson's brewery, was given a formal discharge yesterday at Bow Street magistrates' court, where he had faced 16 charges of dishonestly obtaining cheques and services worth more than £2,300.

Gift breaks water main

A railway engine presented by China to the National Railways Museum at York fractured a water main as it passed through Sheffield yesterday. Tankers had to supply homes in the Richmond and Handsworth areas of the City.

£175,000 damages

Miss Susan Hamblenton, of Brisbane, Australia, aged 21, was awarded £175,000 agreed damages and costs by Mr Justice McNeill in the High Court at Liverpool yesterday for head injuries received in a road accident while on holiday in Liverpool in 1978.

Four die in house fire

A mother and three children died in a fire in a house in Belgrave Road, Walthamstow, east London, early yesterday. Mr Mohammed Khan, aged 45, jumped to safety but his wife and three sons, aged ten, nine and two, were trapped.

Death crash names

Two of the three men who died when a car collided with the A63 near Hull were named yesterday as Mr David Gerard North, aged 28, of Poynton, Cheshire, and his passenger, Mr George Henry Smith, aged 53, of Market Weighton, Hum.

£72,000 damages

Pascall Hallier, aged 24, of Rouen, a former national water polo player, was awarded £72,000 agreed damages in the High Court at High Court yesterday for road crash injuries which led to the amputation of his right leg.

Robbery charge

Julie Alison Tiddy, aged 19, of Bitterswell Road, Lutworth, Leicestershire, was remanded in custody for a week yesterday at Highbury Magistrates' Court, north London, charged with robbing a Post Office employee of post worth £4,800 at Swinford, Leicestershire, on June 18.

Teenage delinquents are people too

Who can a teenager turn to if his parents seem to him only a source of trouble? There is no one who does nothing to do but drift in the streets. It is so easy to turn to crime when you're young, confused, broke and frustrated.

Teenage delinquents are people too

Our Family Centre gives teenagers somewhere to go and something to do, and offer guidance and counselling to help them through to adulthood. Help us to help them.

Send a donation to:

Children First, Church of England, Children's Society, 20 Old Town Hall, Remington Road, London SE18 4ED. National Office, 514-0013.

Wider use of fines is sought

By Our Legal Correspondent

Fines should be more widely used as an alternative to sending offenders to court, according to a report published yesterday.

It also says that fewer people should be sent to prison for not paying fines imposed on them. The report, by working party of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro), points out that more than 17,000 fine defaulters were sent to prison in 1979 and that this was a serious problem for an already overburdened prison system.

The working party rejects the abolition of imprisonment for fine defaulters. Imprisonment had to remain the last resort for those who failed to ensure that all other alternatives had been exhausted.

Courts should take greater care to impose fines that the offender was able to pay. They should first estimate the weekly amount the person could afford to pay, and then reflect the gravity of the offence by the number of weekly instalments imposed upon the offender.

Relating a fine closely to an offender's means would also avoid being fined more heavily. Offenders should also be able to pay their fines by credit card.

Another way of keeping fine defaulters out of prison would be to make more use of other ways of collecting moneys owing—for instance attachment of earnings.

Fine Default (Nacro, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 2JL).

TARLING APPEAL REFUSED

Mr Richard Tarling, a former director of the Par East conglomerate, Haw Par Brothers International Ltd, yesterday lost his last chance to clear his name of violating Singapore company law.

Mr Tarling, who lives at 15 Wimbledon, was ordered by the Privy Council in London to appeal against his conviction in Singapore High Court on April 24, 1980, after a 12-day hearing on five charges. Other charges were dropped.

Mr Tarling, who was extradited in March 1980, after a two-year legal battle, was jailed for six months but released after four.

His appeal against conviction and sentence was dismissed in January by the Singapore Appeal Court.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, for Mr Tarling, submitted there was no evidence to support the conviction.

Lord Diplock, sitting with Lord Edmund-Davies and Sir Owen Woodhouse, of New Zealand, dismissed the application without hearing submissions on behalf of the prosecution.

£40,929 for attic letters

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The desirability of being able to trace the provenance of a book was underlined at Phillips yesterday when the contents of some dusty boxes found in the attic by a collateral descendant of the first Lord Sheffield were sold for £40,929. The boxes contained an archive of letters and documents relating to the friends and hobbies of Lord Sheffield (1725-1821).

The most expensive lot comprised some 400 letters and documents relating to the long friendship between Lord Sheffield and the French dealer and collector, Lord Rothschild, whose collection of letters and documents was sold for £36,000. One lot was missing when he sold them and had now been replaced in replica.

At a sale held by Sotheby's in South Africa on Wednesday, a 17th-century South African map went through the roof. The sale had snob appeal. With 28 lots from the collection of the late Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone. The most expensive items were all from her collection. An Anton van Wouw bronze of a Miner with a machine drill sold for 70,000 rand (estimated 25,000-35,000) or £40,912, an auction record for any South African work of art.

Life jail for Libyan

From Our Correspondent, Southampton

Hosni Farhat, aged 33, a Libyan airline clerk, was jailed for life yesterday. He was found guilty at Winchester Crown Court of four charges of attempted murder.

Farhat put rat poison in a packet of dry peas in an attempt to kill a fellow-Libyan, Farag Ghessada, his English wife, Heather, and their children, Karim, aged eight, and Soad, aged seven.

The family, who live in Portsmouth, had refused the orders of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to return to Libya by June last year.

Farhat, who lived in Lymington House, Lymington, Portsmouth, before he returned to live in Tripoli, was said to be a strong supporter of the Libyan regime.

Justice Bristow told Farhat: "It is by good fortune and the skill of the doctors that you are only here for attempted murder, and not on a murder charge."

The children are the nuts out to share them, much of the poison fell off. They were dangerously ill, but recovered. The family's Pekinese dog, which was fed some of the nuts, died.

Judge rebukes editors

The editors of three Scottish newspapers were admonished by a High Court judge in Glasgow yesterday for contempt of court in reports concerning the trial of 11 men accused of raising guns and ammunition on behalf of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

The trial was halted in its third day on Wednesday when defence counsel submitted that witnesses might unfairly influence the jury.

The editors, Mr Eric Mackay of *The Scotsman*, Mr Arnold Kemp of *The Glasgow Herald* and Mr Bernard Vickers of the *Daily Record*, were summoned to appear before a trial judge, Lord Ross yesterday morning.

He ruled that although the editors had acted in good faith, contempt of court had been committed in reports of the second day of the trial. He hoped the case would "have sounded a warning" that during a trial the greatest care had to be taken about what was reported.

It was satisfied that the trial should proceed and the jury would be told again to disregard newspaper reports.

Fewer postal delays

By Bill Johnston

The number of complaints to the Post Office Users National Council about postal delays was 721 over the past year, about one-third the number submitted the previous year.

In the same period the complaints about telephone bills almost doubled, to 6,408.

The figures are contained in the council's annual report, published yesterday. The report acknowledges that in the year more mail was delivered on time and that telephone waiting times were reduced. But it emphasises that there is still some way to go before

customers can be satisfied with the industries' performances.

Even allowing for an inflated level of complaints during 1979, when postal performance was particularly poor, the reduction of 37 per cent in general postal complaints is regarded by the council as "acknowledgement of the improved quality of the postal service in 1980".

The rise in the number of complaints about telephone accounts had been caused at least in part by tariff increases, the scale of which had not been fully appreciated by subscribers.

Russia gets a brief respite from heatwave

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, July 2

A fall in temperature last night brought temporary relief from the prolonged heatwave that has engulfed Russia for the past two weeks. But by the afternoon the thermometer was rising again.

Yesterday President Brezhnev told Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, on a visit here, that the heatwave, which has brought temperatures of over 90° to much of the country, could have serious consequences for the Soviet grain harvest.

Over the weekend a trade union newspaper reported that lack of rain had affected the fodder crop in the fertile farming regions of Russia, resulting in much reduced yields of grass. This would force farmers to look elsewhere for animal feed and could severely hamper the Soviet Union's crash programme to increase the output of meat and milk.

Meanwhile, newspapers have been trying to dispel rumours and alarmist rumours that the heat is causing industrial dislocations and uncontrollable fires and may still get worse. One paper specifically denied rumours that the temperature would rise to a record-breaking 40°C. A spokesman for the Soviet meteorological office said the heat, caused by a mass of hot air from central Asia, would continue for some time but would gradually weaken.

In Moscow, where the thermometer again touched 30°C today, the paper said it was not likely to be hotter than 36°C this month—though that figure itself is virtually unprecedented in the Soviet capital.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Soft Drinks said lemonade factories had been working round the clock to satisfy the greatly increased demand. He said all holiday leave had been cancelled, labour reserves had been "mobilized", emergency production lines opened and factories were now turning out almost 20 million litres of lemonade a day—twice the normal average.

As Muscovites swelter in the unrelenting heat, doctors have been giving their considered opinions on how to keep cool and what to do. The main rule, one wrote portentously, was to wear light clothes, preferably of cotton and linen.

People working outside should take special care and always wear a light sunhat. The doctor also said those suffering from heart diseases should move about as little as possible and keep out of the sun's rays.

His advice appears superfluous to the thousands who have been sitting in the Moscow parks in swimming costumes, and flocking into the Moscow river at the end of each day.

The big danger is now forest and peat fires, such as occurred last round Moscow after a hot, dry summer in 1972. Soviet papers have been warning people to be careful because of the increased fire risk throughout the country. Camp fires have been forbidden and the forestry service is now keeping a 24-hour firewatch.

Nevertheless, one paper reported a number of big fires recently. One in Siberia caused damage worth 9m roubles (£6m) and wooden houses had burnt down. Near Minsk a shed caught fire and more than 80 head of cattle were burnt to death.

Ironically in the Caucasus serious damage has been caused not by heat but by rain. Soviet television yesterday showed extensive damage to vineyards in Azerbaijan by torrential rainfall in the past few days. Thousands of acres have been flooded, irrigation canals broken, and losses amount to millions of roubles.

BOMB DEATH

Guatemala City, July 2—A baggage handler was killed when a bomb exploded in a suitcase at Guatemala City airport minutes before the case was to be loaded on to a Miami-bound airliner. Señor Vinicio Cerezo, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party, a leading opponent of the Army-backed government, was a passenger on the airliner.

Red Cross plea to Thais over trapped Vietnamese

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, July 2

Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have appealed to the Thai Prime Minister's Office to give sanctuary to 358 Vietnamese trapped among hostile Cambodians on the Thai border and have asked for a meeting with General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister.

Red Cross appeals during the past six weeks have been rejected by security and military chiefs, who said the safety of the Vietnamese was not Thailand's responsibility. One official said Thailand would resist all pressure to admit the Vietnamese, who had left their homeland at their own risk and who had bribed Vietnamese and Cambodian officials to get to the Thai border.

Among the refugees were large family groups and many women and children. They were in jeopardy while surrounded by nearly 100,000 hostile Cambodians. The Red Cross had an international mandate, to which Thailand was a party, to protect the lives of the 358 refugees, an official said.

American authorities have promised to treat the Vietnamese group as an emergency so as

Ship engine order gives Britain foothold in Japan

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, July 2

Rolls-Royce won a crucial contract from the Japanese Navy today, starting a trend under which all big Japanese warships, such as destroyers, guided-missile destroyers, escort vessels and cruisers, will be equipped with British-designed engines for the next 20 years, a spokesman for the British naval attaché explained.

Providing Britain with a firm foothold in Japan's potentially lucrative market for defence equipment, the Japan Defence Agency announced today that it had chosen Rolls-Royce and its Japanese partner, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, to supply the Navy's new generation of 4,050-ton destroyers with Olympus and Spey gas turbine engines.

"We have decided to use two Spey SMLA engines and two Olympus TM38 engines to power a new guided-missile destroyer under construction. The contract has been awarded to Rolls-Royce and Kawasaki Heavy Industries in the face of fierce competition from General Electric," a spokesman for the Japan Defence Agency said.

British Embassy spokesman here admitted that the initial order for the four engines will do little to offset Britain's £1,100m trade deficit with Japan this year. But he went on to point out that the significance of the contract lies in the fact that it has set the pattern for the future.

"This means that Britain has got its foot in the door. This contract will set the trend

under which all major Japanese warships, such as destroyers, guided-missile destroyers, escort vessels and cruisers, will be equipped with British-designed engines for the next 20 years, a spokesman for the British naval attaché explained.

Under Japan's medium-term defence plans the Japanese Navy is to be equipped with nine new guided-missile destroyers by 1986. Japan's small class of 2,900-ton destroyers, known as the Hatsukuki series, is already equipped with the smaller British-designed Tyne gas turbine engines and Olympus engines.

"The Japanese were looking for an engine more powerful than the Tyne. The Spey comes between the Tyne and the Olympus and has proved to be the right engine for the new type of guided-missile destroyers. It means that all future destroyers will be equipped with British engines," a spokesman for the British Embassy told me.

Rolls-Royce plants in Britain will manufacture sections and parts of the engines. Other sections will be made and assembled under licence by Kawasaki.

At present, Rolls-Royce turbofan engines are in service in Japan's T2 trainers and F1 fighters and are manufactured under licence by Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries.

Seoul drive for close Asean links

From David Watts
Singapore, July 2

Fresh from his diplomatic coup as the first foreign head of state to visit President Reagan, President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea is busy cementing the second pillar of the country's foreign policy; its relations with the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).

He is now on the third leg of a tour of Asean countries which marks the start of a more assertive policy taking Seoul into a wider regional area of interest. The importance the Koreans attach to this diplomatic offensive can be gauged by the size of the delegation accompanying the President of 14 senior officials and four Cabinet ministers. A senior official travelling with him said that Seoul's new interest in South-East Asia as an area for increased trade and closer, diplomatic cooperation constituted "a very important, serious commitment".

Two-way trade between Asean and South Korea last year was valued at more than \$2,000m (£1,052m).

The Korean party has already visited Indonesia and Malaysia. Tomorrow the President leaves for Thailand. The tour will end with the Philippines. In each country the diplomatic aim has been to persuade the Asean countries that security in North-East and South-East Asia is interdependent and to appeal to them to assist efforts to persuade North Korea to open contacts with the South.

As an interim step towards President Chun's declared aim of the reunification of the two Koreas, Seoul is also seeking support for the signing of both countries at the United Nations. This has been promised by the countries already visited. The others are likely to follow suit.

President Chun has called on President Kim Il Sung of North Korea to meet him anywhere at any time for discussions. Today President Kim rejected that offer until there was a change of government in the South.

Though the Koreans are linking security in North-East Asia with that in the Asean area, little is being said publicly about the obvious implication of any South Korean commitment to help threatened Asean countries.

They view a refugee health scare as part of the same campaign. Thai officials announced yesterday that 17 cases of schistosomiasis, a disease transmitted by snails, has been diagnosed among refugees at a holding centre near the Cambodian border. They said the disease was contagious and could be fatal.

Their claim that the disease posed a potential public health problem for Thailand was disputed by Dr A. C. Rangasiri, Health Coordinator for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He said the disease could be quickly isolated and easily treated.

"The disease can spread where there is poor sanitation and where the snail host is present, but at refugee camps and in Western nations those conditions are not likely. The snail exists in Thailand but the disease has never been a problem."

Bitter circulation war

The battle of Trenton, 1981-style

From Michael Leapman, Trenton, New Jersey, July 2

US-ISRAEL PLANE DEAL SUSPENDED BY REAGAN



Two titles struggling for supremacy.

The latter-day battle of Trenton is for the eyes and minds of 140,000 newspaper readers in this state capital of New Jersey, squeezed between the great cities of New York and Philadelphia.

It is being conducted with a frank malevolence on both sides and receives unusual attention nationally. There are not many such hard-fought press wars left in a country where most communities are now served by newspapers under a single ownership.

Accusations and black propaganda fly. There are charges that paper vending machines have been sabotaged and circulation figures falsified.

Piquancy is added by the identity of the biggest loser so far, the proud and powerful Washington Post Company. Mrs Katherine Graham, chairman of the board of the Post, is quoted as having called Trenton, "my Vietnam".

The tone of voice used in the contest can be judged by a full page advertisement for itself that the Trentonian printed last week. Its purpose was to point out that its rival the Trenton Times was printed in the morning but some readers did not get it delivered until late afternoon.

The other side hit back. "What annoys me in all the reports about our rivalry," said Mr Rem Reider, managing editor of the Trenton Times, "is that the Trentonian is always described as a lively tabloid. It's not lively. It's a boring tabloid. This is a livelier, better written paper."

Be that as it may, *The Times*, bought by the Washington Post Company in 1974, has been steadily losing ground to its rival, owned by the small Independent chain of New York. At the end of last year the Trentonian had a higher daily sale than the Times for the first time in competitive history. Both now sell a little over 65,500 a day.

There are those who see in this a cautionary tale for large newspaper publishers moving into small-town markets hoping to obliterate the competition. People at the Trenton Times now admit that when the Washington Post took them over, in the heady aftermath of that paper's Watergate triumph,

their assumptions about what the citizens of Trenton wanted to read were much too grandiose.

The idea was to turn the Times into the "Washington Post North", aiming for a readership of all over New Jersey with aggressive investigative features. The local circulation, it was felt, would take care of itself.

Reporters were turned loose to look into the murky side of life in New Jersey. If reputations are anything to go by, few states can boast of being murkier.

But not only did the expected new readers not materialize, the old ones began to drift away.

The Trentonian, meanwhile, was more than holding its own with solid if glamorous coverage of local affairs, meticulously reported who went to what charity functions—the chicken-dinner circuit, as its detractors call it.

In the heat of the fight, insinuations abound. Mr Larry Kramer, executive editor of the Times, suggests that the Trentonian is less than rigorous about running stories critical of its advertisers, or of business in general.

He mentioned a case where handicapped people had demonstrated outside a large discount store because new security arrangements made it impossible for them to enter in wheelchairs.

The Times gave the story prominence but the Trentonian where the store happens to advertise made less of it. "To me it was a monument out of a molehill," said Mr Emil Slaboda, editor of the Trentonian. "Let's say we don't take cheap shots at anybody."

Not that they mind taking shots, cheap or otherwise, at the Times. They challenged their audited circulation figures for the period ending March 1980 and had them altered. At the same time, the four top circulation people of the Times were charged with fraud.

The Trentonian is a morning paper. The Trenton Times has been an afternoon paper but in its latest attempt to regain the lead is gradually shifting to a morning.

"It is a sweet fight and we are happy to be in it," Mr Padilla said. A far cry from Watergate.

Stress hits teachers throughout the world

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, July 2

Stress is becoming a serious occupational hazard for teachers in almost all countries, according to a study prepared by the International Labour Organisation, which describes it as a cause for alarm.

Research in Britain, Sweden and the United States indicates that up to 25 per cent of teachers face enough stress to affect their health.

In North America, the incidence of stress among teachers in large urban schools has produced a condition described by doctors as "burnout". They compare it with battle fatigue among soldiers.

The research shows that stress, in the form of exhaustion, frustration and nervous tension, can lead to hypertension, ulcers, renal and heart disease and it can also affect the nervous system.

The study identifies violence, oversized classes, time-table pressure, low salaries, worry about career prospects and job insecurity as the principal causes of stress.

Violence, at its worst in urban areas and overcrowded schools, is most prevalent in the United States—with up to 5 per cent of teachers victims of attacks—and in Latin America where kidnappings and assassinations of teachers have occurred.

Recommendations for attacking the problems will be drawn up at a meeting of teachers and government representatives to be held here later this year.

The false economy of flying Economy.



Other airlines' Economy Class Fares

WHAT YOU PAY*	
Dusseldorf	£65.50
Cologne	£65.50
Frankfurt	£81.50
Zurich	£103.00
Basle	£98.50
Geneva	£98.50
WHAT YOU GET	
Exclusive check-in desk	
Choose your seat at check-in	
Business-like environment of separate cabin	
Special in-flight service with extra cabin staff	
Meals or high-quality snacks on all flights	
Drinks free	

WHAT YOU SAVE	
£4	
£4	
£4.50	
£5	
£5	
£5	
WHAT YOU LOSE	
No special check-in desk	
No seat selection on most flights	
No separate cabin	
No preferential treatment	
No meals or snacks on some flights	
No free drinks	

If you want to save yourself four or five pounds to Germany or Switzerland, you could fly Economy Class with one of our competitors.

But just tot up what you're giving up.

We think you'll agree that your Economy measure has cost you rather a lot.

British airways

We'll take more care of you.



*Fares from London

US and Peking 'want return' to the cold war

From Desha Trevisan, Sofia, July 2

The prime ministers of 10 member-states of Comecon, the Soviet bloc economic organization, began a three-day annual meeting in Sofia today, with Poland obviously a pre-occupying topic but other economic problems connected with closer integration high on the agenda.

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, is heading the Soviet delegation. The Polish delegation led by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, includes Mr Tadeusz Grabki, a hardline Politburo member who until recently was in charge of economic affairs in the Central Committee.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Grisha Filipov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister. He said that the meeting was a difficult international situation in which the "aggressive forces" of the United States with the help of "Peking's hegemonism" were attempting to bring the world back to the cold war era.

In contrast, he said, the socialist countries were striving for détente. He singled out President Brezhnev as the "most ardent champion of peace".

The meeting is expected to attempt to bring about a closer coordination of economic plans as well as take some initiative over Poland's pressing economic problems. There is, however, as yet, no clear indication that something more tangible may emerge in the way of joint Comecon assistance to Poland.

Mr Gyorgy Lazar, the Hungarian Prime Minister, called for greater efficiency in Comecon work and less bureaucracy, as well as for agreement on a programme to assist all member-countries in their energy and raw materials problems. He said

that the growth rate in Hungary was slowing down and that in the present economic international situation there would be no increases in living standards.

He urged the Comecon countries to use their energy and raw materials resources more rationally and to cooperate more closely in modernizing industry and developing agriculture.

The prime ministers are expected to discuss the economic integration programme for the year to 1985 and possibly until 1990. The decreasing industrial growth rate is hindering the programme and the Polish crisis has added to the difficulties.

Poland's inability to keep up agreed deliveries has already caused disruption in countries, which depend heavily on the import of Polish coal and other materials. This has also aggravated the problems of assisting the poorer members, Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

Last year's Comecon meeting failed to reach agreement on a number of problems especially those related to energy and raw materials.

The Soviet Union is the main supplier of oil and raw materials to Comecon members. It pledged to maintain oil deliveries to member-countries at a rate of 80 million tonnes a year for five years. But, all member-countries need to go beyond that and already during last year's session in Prague, the Soviet Union made it clear that this is the limit unless its East European allies invest in oil extraction and mining within the Soviet Union.

Another sensitive problem is that of price and quality. Russia's allies are paying about half the world market price for Soviet oil.

Poles told they face economic catastrophe

Warsaw, July 2.—As Poland prepared for a visit by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, the Polish Sejm (Parliament) heard today that the country was facing catastrophe unless there was a urgent economic reform.

It was not clear when Mr Gromyko, whose visit is expected to last several days, would come. Official sources have been saying it would probably be on Friday afternoon. He is expected to report back to Moscow on developments here over the past few weeks, which saw many new people elected for the coming Communist Party congress.

In the Sejm Mr Zbigniew Mazowiecki, a Deputy Prime Minister, said that the economic situation was "serious".

Industrial production in January was down 10 per cent on last year, and in May it dropped 18 per cent. If this continued, national income would drop by 15 per cent this year. Mr Mazowiecki said the country would need between three and five years to recover from the crisis. The reduction of its \$25,000m (about £13,000m) foreign debt would not start until the next five-year plan, beginning in 1986.

The seriousness of the situation was underlined by the Polish news agency PAP, which said today that recent predictions that the crisis had bottomed out had proved wrong. Empty shelves in the shops, coupons for which there are no goods and a shortage of cigarettes and petrol are new phenomena which emerged at the end of the first half of the year.

The Polish National Bank was quoted as saying there was a huge imbalance between wages and the supply of goods. While the total wage bill had risen 25 per cent in the first six months over the same period last year, employment had grown only 0.3 per cent. Industrial production fell 12 per cent and labour productivity also dropped.

Mr Gromyko's visit is being seen in a generally optimistic light in Warsaw. Western diplomats said foreign policy was one area in which Poland had no quarrels with Moscow. The visit was described as brief and friendly and the fact that it was announced well in advance suggested it would be successful.

Although Moscow has expressed concern that so many of the old guard were swept away in elections, the most democratic under Communist rule, the fact that most of the leaders were returned is likely to reassure the Kremlin, diplomats said. Reuter.

Mr Leszek Moczulski, the main defendant in the trial of four dissidents, pleaded not guilty to charges of working to overthrow the state and cut Poland's links with Moscow. (UPI reports from Moscow.)

The trial, Poland's first major political one since the labour unrest began last year, reopened today.

An unidentified number of Poles suspected of having deserted Soviet soldiers' graves and monuments have been arrested. The Polish news agency reported tonight (AP reports).



'It fits! It fits!'

Deng gives China smiling face

From David Bonavia, Peking, July 2

Huge black limousines with curtained windows have been racing around Peking streets for the past few days, marking the most important political event since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976, and—some observers believe—since the communist victory in 1949.

Hua Guofeng, Mao's choice as Chairman of the Communist Party, has been humbly demoted, and power at the top level is now more firmly than ever in the hands of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the leader of the new China.

Mr Deng, who is 76, plans to remain at the helm until 1985, when he has said in the past he would like to retire. Though he has kept up some advisory role in the party and Government, the men he has brought on are not young—mostly in their sixties—but that is not considered old for a political leader in China.

Twenty years, was a long formation, unthinkable only five years ago.

Young people are opening private businesses. Peasants are encouraged to pursue something close to private farming.

Consumer goods and foodstuffs are becoming more plentiful, though also more expensive. And Western cultural influences, despite dire warnings from some political hardliners, are spreading from Shakespeare to Coca-Cola.

This transformation is the result of five years of hard work and tough political infighting by Mr Deng. It is unlikely that anyone else could have carried it off. And as long as he remains fit and vigorous, Mr Deng may hope to see his own version of the new China developed and continued by the team of collaborators he has built up around himself.

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Court allows transfer of Iranian assets

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, July 2

The United States Supreme Court today upheld the right of former President Carter to transfer Iranian assets in exchange for the release of 52 American hostages last January.

The unanimous ruling clears the way for the transfer of between \$3,000m and \$4,000m (£1,500m-£2,000m) Iranian assets by the July 19 deadline agreed between America and Iran at the time of the hostages release.

The court ruled that Mr Carter had the power to transfer American companies from pursuing claims against Iran in United States courts so that Iran's assets could be returned. These claims will now be settled by an international tribunal.

In an opinion by Mr Justice William Rehnquist, the court based its ruling on the power of the President to settle claims of American citizens against foreign governments. It noted that President Carter had acted fully within his authority under the 1971 International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

The law empowers the President to regulate or prevent any transfer with respect to foreign property when he has declared a national emergency. "In our view," Mr Rehnquist said, the President had the authority under the International Emergency Powers Act. Congress had implicitly approved the President's actions. We conclude that the President had the authority.

According to a Treasury spokesman just over \$2,000m of assets are held in the form of bank deposits. These deposits change for the release of 52 American hostages last January.

The bank deposit will be transferred to the Federal Reserve Bank during the next two weeks before being dispatched to Iran.

To order the release of the American hostages who were held in Iran for 444 days, President Carter agreed to nullify about 450 private suits for claims against Iran. Many of the companies with claims against Iran challenged the agreement, arguing that the President did not have the power to prevent them from suing in American courts.

Under last January's agreement, Iran undertook to set aside \$1,000m when its assets were returned to pay off any American claims. Iranian national tribunals may award.

Iran executions: The ruling Islamic revolutionaries today executed 17 radicals in Iran and announced the arrests of 50 others in raids. Tehran radio announced (UPI reports) that Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, told families of the 74 victims of Sunday's explosion at the Islamic Republic Party headquarters that Iran considered the "war with the United States".

Setback to holiday hopes of French deputies

From Ian Murray, Paris, July 2

The new French Parliament met for the first time today for the start of what promises to be an unusually busy if short session.

Normally deputies at this time of year are preparing for a long holiday. This year, however, they will have much less time for acquiring a suntan as the Socialist Government begins introducing the legislation for its reform programme.

The real business of the session is due to be announced on Wednesday next week after the Cabinet meeting and will probably be outlined in a message from President Mitterrand which is to be read to the National Assembly that day by the Prime Minister.

The opening of this seventh Parliament of the Fifth Republic was given over to the usual traditions. M Louis Mermaz, the Socialist deputy for the Isere, was duly elected President of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly will, however, have to work hard to keep to its timetable and M Mermaz, in his presidential address, made it clear that the Socialist Government intended to play a much fuller role than in the past.

It would be necessary, he said, for Parliament to give the means to control government action and to develop methods of investigation which it could use. This was a job which, he said, would involve the National Assembly in every sector of French thought playing its part, "which was not the case in preceding parliaments".

Money blow to Moscow press corps

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow, July 2

There is only one subject of conversation for the large majority of foreign journalists in Moscow at the moment: coupons. Without warning, the Soviet authorities have suddenly refused to give journalists the convertible "currency" coupons needed to buy daily necessities in the one shop providing a reasonable range of food, meat and imported drinks.

"You can forget Afghanistan, Poland, arms control talks. This is serious," a senior correspondent said. He, like others, only learnt of the change when the Bank for Foreign Trade yesterday refused to give over the little pink books of what looks like monopoly money.

There is one small food shop for tourists with a meagre selection of groceries at about double the price. This accepts only foreign currency, but Soviet law forbids resident foreigners from drawing hard currency out of the bank unless they are leaving the country. It looks as though people will now have to buy their cigarettes with credit cards or travellers' cheques.

The reaction has naturally been one of outrage. Councils of war have been drawn up. It is all very well to write about the increasingly poor selection of food and point out how much time Russians waste standing in queues, but it is less amusing to find yourself in the same boat.

The Russians have been trying to get rid of the coupon system for years, because these valuable little passports to Western-style living have been finding their way into Soviet pockets.

Twenty years ago "diplomatic" groceries did not exist. A corner of the GUM store was cordoned off for foreigners.

Grisly mass murder in Hollywood

Los Angeles, July 2.—Four people were battered to death in a grisly mass murder in the expensive Hollywood Hills area, while neighbours ignored screams for help.

A fifth victim at the scene, a 25-year-old woman, lay with neck and head wounds for 12 hours before a neighbour finally called the police late yesterday.

The house is in the wooded Laurel Canyon area, where country-style homes cost around \$1m (£500,000). The home is only a short distance from where Sharon Tate and four others were murdered by members of Charles Manson's hippie cult in 1969. Police said there was so much blood in the house they would not even speculate on how the victims died.

A neighbour said he heard a man screaming, but added that loud parties and screams were often heard in that area.

It was 12 hours later before another neighbour noticed the front door of the house was open and went in. A body of a man was found in a downstairs bedroom of the three-storey house, a woman's body was in the living room and the bodies of a man and a woman were in an upstairs bedroom.

Police said they would discard any possibility regarding drugs, robbery or anything else in establishing a motive.

The injured woman underwent a four-hour operation and was said by a hospital spokesman today to be in a critical condition. Part of one of the woman's fingers had been cut off, the spokesman said, as if she had tried to stop an axe blow.

A man taken from the murder scene yesterday in handcuffs released. Police said they had obtained some information from the man, but said the man was not a suspect—Reuter.

Hunger striker's daughter on American television

From Michael Leppman, New York, July 2

Bernadette McDonnell, the 11-year-old daughter of a hunger striker at the Maze prison near Belfast, was interviewed on American television yesterday morning. She urged Americans to write to President Reagan to put pressure on Mrs Thatcher to solve the Irish question. "Margaret Thatcher will have to do something," she said.

Her remark came at the end of the interview and was the only controversial statement she made. She and an 11-year-old Ulster Protestant, Keith Dixon, talked mostly about what it is like to be a child today in Northern Ireland.

They are among 160 children from the province visiting America for six weeks under a scheme organized by the Gaelic Society in Greenwood Lake, New Jersey. After their arrival

had been reported in the press at the weekend, the producers of *Good Morning America*, the nationally networked breakfast programme of the American Broadcasting Company, decided to interview two of them.

Miss McDonnell was chosen because she was a hunger striker's daughter, according to Mr John Goodman, associate producer of the programme. Viewers were informed of this halfway through the programme when she said that the man she most admired in the world was her father.

It was not a political interview, Mr Goodman said. "It was just a slice of life in Northern Ireland for the American people. By talking to the kids we tried to explain to an American audience what it is like to grow up in that environment."



A woman and her two children, shot by Ugandan soldiers, mourned by relatives at the Ombachi mission. The photograph was taken by Mr Lars Astrom, a Swedish Red Cross worker.

Uganda Army blamed for massacre

Kampala, July 2.—Eyewitnesses have confirmed that a small band of Ugandan soldiers ran through a Roman Catholic mission in a north-western Uganda 10 days ago and massacred 60 unarmed civilians.

Government sources said today that statements made by eyewitnesses in the course of a police inquiry, which is still under way, blamed a group of soldiers led by a lieutenant for the killing of the civilians and the wounding of 40 others.

The massacre took place at the Ombachi mission run by the Verona Fathers in the West Nile district of the country. Several thousand refugees had sought shelter at the mission, which had been declared a Red Cross protected area, to escape fighting between Ugandan troops and guerrillas from the Northern Regiment.

The Northern Regiment, including some remnants of the

Army of the ousted dictator Idi Amin, is one of several guerrilla groups trying to overthrow the Government of President Milton Obote.

Government sources quoted the witnesses as saying that the notorious Major Gaba, accused of raping nuns during Amin's rule, was being treated for wounds at the mission hours before the massacre. Major Gaba and five other wounded guerrillas were taken from the mission by comrades from the Northern Regiment on the morning of the massacre.

In Stockholm, Mr Lars Astrom, the Red Cross' East Africa delegate, told a press conference today how Ugandan soldiers raided the Ombachi mission.

He said at least 22 people were killed, most of them young girls, when the soldiers opened fire on a storage room in which they were hiding.

"I saw one woman with a three-month-old baby with a head blown off in her arms," he said. "I was told a soldier accused her of being a spy and therefore her child was killed."

Mr Astrom said the trouble started when "uncontrollable elements from the Ugandan Army" plundered the city of Arua and many people fled to the Ombachi mission outside the city.

Meanwhile, the Kampala newspaper *Umunsi* today accused the Ugandan Government of violating human rights through illegal detentions and the torture of opposition party members.

"Many of these detainees have not seen light for six months. And for some even their relatives have no way of knowing whether they are still alive," the newspaper said.—AP and Agence France-Press.

IN BRIEF

Sindbad docks a week early

Hongkong.—Tim Severin of Britain, sailing by Arab dhow from Oman to China, following the route of the legendary Sindbad the Sailor, reached journey's end a week ahead of time.

The 1,600-mile last leg from Singapore to the mouth of the Pearl River took only 18 days. The dhow, its planks held together by cotton fibre, anchored until a tug from the Chinese Shipping Agency arrived to guide it up river to Huangpu port in the southern China city of Canton. His 6,000-mile trip began on November 23.

Birth-pill denial

Pretoria.—Mr James Gilliland, South Africa's Deputy Director General of Health, denied a London report that a controversial birth control drug, RU-486, was being used on black women without their knowledge. In Zimbabwe, it was reported that the Cabinet had decided to phase out use of the drug for safety reasons.

Sentences upheld

Karlsruhe.—The West German Supreme Court rejected the appeal of Kurt Lischka, the former Gestapo chief of Nazi-occupied France, serving a 10-year sentence for masterminding the wartime murders of 73,000 French Jews.

Four months captive

Milan.—Kidnappers freed Signorina Tullia Kauten, aged 48, after holding her captive and chained to a bed since March 5. Her family paid a first ransom instalment of 441m lire (£190,000) on May 15 and another large sum on Monday.

Briton appointed

Brussels.—Mr John Steele, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Industry, has been appointed director-general of the European Commission's transport department.

Secrets for sale

The Hague.—Dick Griffioen, aged 29, a civilian employee of the Dutch Defence Ministry was sentenced to two years in prison for trying to sell state secrets to the Soviet Embassy to pay off his casino gambling debts.

Man in the news

71-12: 1 mile-14: 1m 11-16: 1m-
18: 2m 192yds-16. The new limits
take effect immediately.

Tennis

Borg banquet for the gods, McEnroe feast for the 'vultures'



By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Bjorn Borg, champion for five consecutive years, beat Jimmy McEnroe 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in three hours and 19 minutes at Wimbledon yesterday evening. The fact that this was Borg's final match was a poignant detail, as the 29-year-old Swede was retiring from the sport after a career of unparalleled success.

It was not so much the swing of the racket, or the way he hit the ball, that made Borg a legend. It was his composure, his ability to remain calm under the most intense pressure, and his tactical brilliance that set him apart from other players of his era.

There seemed to be a swarm of Borgs on court—all of them playing like the real thing, but none of them with the same grace and power as the Swede. Borg's performance was a masterclass in tennis, a testament to his skill and his mental fortitude.

is that they can seek out punishment and bounce back to their best form. Borg did this. In one of the most remarkable games ever played at Wimbledon, Borg defeated McEnroe in five sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

From Borg's point of view, the match was a walk in the park. He was playing against a player who was not as good as he was. He was playing against a player who was not as experienced as he was. He was playing against a player who was not as mentally tough as he was.

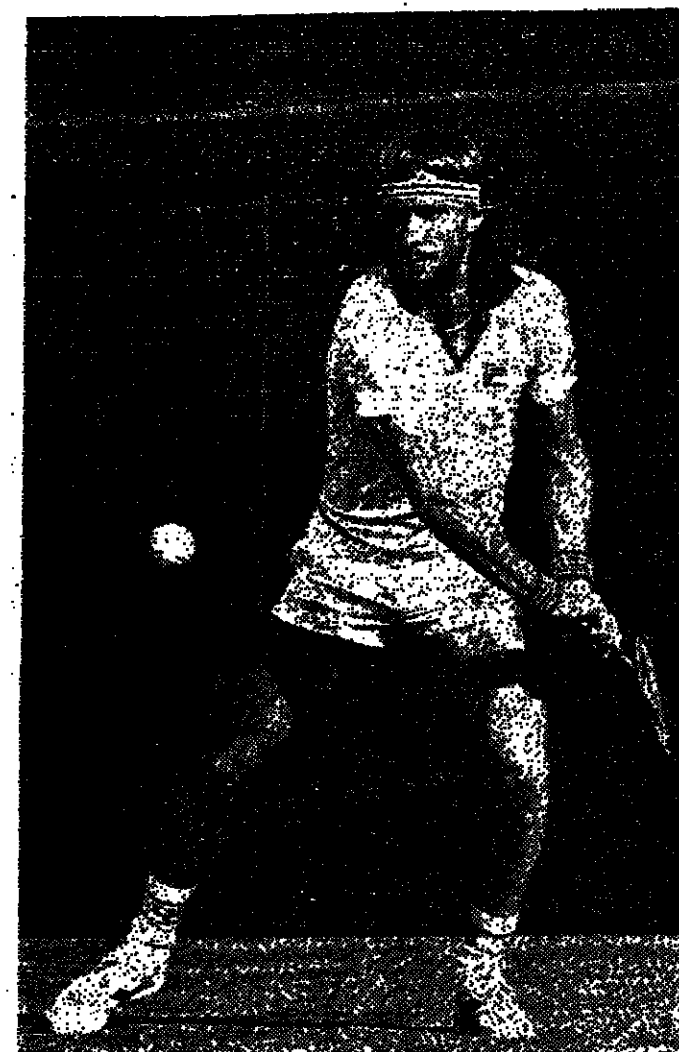
The centre court programme had begun at a relatively common-place level. Borg took three hours and one minute to beat McEnroe. The match was a tactical battle, with Borg using his superior court coverage and McEnroe relying on his powerful serve.

But one of the secrets of the genuine champions, in any sport, is that they can seek out punishment and bounce back to their best form. Borg did this. In one of the most remarkable games ever played at Wimbledon, Borg defeated McEnroe in five sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

"screwed" by Wimbledon's umpires, and had a penalty point awarded against him when he observed "you're a disgrace to mankind". The umpire thought McEnroe was directing at him, but McEnroe insisted that he was merely being self-critical.

Never mind. The umpire, Wing Commander George Grime, handled the match well. McEnroe won it. Frawley took everything about him, thought was concentrated on playing the finest tennis of his life for as long as he possibly could. Frawley never cracked until the 11th game of the third set, when he lost his service from 40 love up, serving three double faults on the way.

Frawley's problem, essentially, was that by unwavering diligence he was trying to compensate for a basic deficiency in class. McEnroe was so quick in his anticipation, footwork, and reactions, that he was able to outpace Frawley in his racket control. McEnroe was so sure in his touch, that he could improvise baffling answers to most of the questions asked of him.



Into the final with a rebound: Borg's silent reply.

How Smith finally broke the holders

By Geoffrey Green

For the majority, singles is the game. To be a Wimbledon champion is to hold the Blue Riband of tennis. Yet a good doubles is hard to beat and certainly the quality of a fine match on court one was as good as anything during the past fortnight as Smith and Lutz, the American title pair, defeated last year's holders, the Australian McNamee and McNamee in 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 6-4 in just under three hours.

To dispose of the details first, McNamee proved the Achilles heel of his partnership with three double faults in the first set. Service captured three times. McNamee was broken twice, served two aces and two double faults. That was the Australian balance sheet.

So much for the bare bones. But the match was a war of attrition, a battle of nerves. Smith and Lutz were too fast for the eye to follow. They were too accurate. They were too consistent. They were too good.

Smith, tall, clean-cut with the look of a West Point military man, was the first to break the deadlock. He won the first set 6-4. The Americans broke back after some lightning rallies to 4-4 and then 6-4 for the set.

But the two "Macs" proved the more eagle-eyed as they swept into the lead at 6-3 and 6-4. Now battle royal was joined. The Americans broke the tie at 6-4 in the fourth set, but the Australians pulled closer in the fifth game against Lutz. The score was 6-5. It was a double fault by McNamee at the seventh point that led to Lutz and Smith to take the set 7-5 and level the match.

It was at this moment that the court atmosphere rose to the level of a war. Smith and Lutz were determined to win. They were determined to prove to the world that they were the best. They were determined to break the hold of the Americans.

When finally, McNamee dropped service for the third time that proved the end. Ahead it was Lutz and Smith. Ahead in their journey to the top of the tennis world. Ahead in their quest for glory. Ahead in their quest for greatness.

Results in four events at Wimbledon yesterday

Men's singles Semi-final round J. P. McENROE (US), beat J. S. CONNORS (US) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4. J. P. McENROE (US), beat R. FRAWLEY (Australia), 7-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.	Mixed doubles Third round L. C. Leach and Miss S. J. Acker (US), beat J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. V. Amerling (India) and Miss S. V. Wade (GB), beat J. V. McNeil (US), and Miss J. S. Acker (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
Men's doubles Semi-final round J. P. McENROE (US), and J. S. CONNORS (US), beat J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. R. C. Lutz and S. R. Smith (US), beat J. P. McNamee and J. S. McNamee (Australia) 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.	Women's doubles Semi-final round Miss K. Jordan and Miss A. E. Smith (US), beat J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. Miss J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US), beat J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Today's order of play at Wimbledon

CENTRE COURT: Mrs J. M. Lloyd v Miss B. Mandlikova, 1.0. Mrs J. M. Lloyd v Miss B. Mandlikova, 1.0. Mrs J. M. Lloyd v Miss B. Mandlikova, 1.0. Mrs J. M. Lloyd v Miss B. Mandlikova, 1.0. Mrs J. M. Lloyd v Miss B. Mandlikova, 1.0.

Local resident calls for ballot

A Wimbledon woman has called for a special ballot for local residents to get their views on the proposed new tennis centre at Wimbledon. She thinks that with all the inconvenience local residents have to put up with, they have a special case for a ballot of their own.

Why the outright-winner girl is a loser

By Rex Bellamy
Chris Lloyd plays Hana Mandlikova this afternoon in what promises to be a superb women's singles final. The most obvious feature should be the high standard of the tennis as the champions of the United States and France set about each other. But it will be a bit of a surprise if Mrs Lloyd beats Miss Mandlikova at Flushing Meadow but lost to her in Paris, which gives today's match the flavour of a play-off.

Rowing

Henley stirs at hint of revolution afloat

By Jim Raiton

Henley Royal regatta retains that marvellous atmosphere of Victorianism and long may some aspects of it live—but yesterday it became a testing ground for an invention which may revolutionise sculling. Volker Nolte, a 28-year-old West German and an expert in bio-mechanics, introduced into Britain a step forward in ergonomics in the sport.

Nolte is the third-ranked sculler in West Germany and has an outside chance of winning the Diamonds, which are the European world and Olympic medal winners. Chris Baillien, 18, is in his half of the draw. He is reading for a doctorate and a short-cut to sculling is a sculler's dream. In the toph, he decided to make his sculling boat do more work for him.

In his heat of the Diamonds yesterday Nolte sculled in an arm-chair with his rigger and foot-spreacher moving as one. That invention, which Nolte has patented, eliminates the wasteful effort of moving a body's centre of gravity up and down the slide and makes the strongest muscles of the body work more efficiently. He locked his secret away in the boot of his car after his race yesterday before any interviews.

But you can be sure that the top scullers of the world are watching with interest—particularly as (Nolte claims that it saves 10 seconds over the Henley course. Yesterday Nolte beat Zencs, of Bedford Rowing Club, and now he meets the Spanish sculler, Jose Quintana Colomer, who overcame Steve Nilsson.

Nilsson entered from Colmer in Ireland but is the son of a Norwegian. Thor Nilsson, former coach of the Spanish national team and now with the Henley Regatta, is that Nilsson sculler coached Colomer as part of his professional duties, but young Nilsson appreciates the funny side of it.

The regatta started on a sad note with a disqualification in the first race of the day, in the Ladies Plate. Henley's chairman, Peter Cornhill, traditionally the umpire of the opening race—deserves all credit in attempting to avoid an incident. The University of Natal (South Africa) went out 35 minutes before the scheduled start at nine o'clock. But they were out of eight to two minutes before the race, when the rules state they should be attached to the start.

Com started the race three minutes late and Benham Boat Club, a London Hospital student crew, were late to row over. Having raised £10,000 for the trip of over 5,000 miles, the South African students from Pietermaritzburg were "in a state of shock" but bravely made no protest and admitted fault.



The agony of losing is somehow greater, as members of Bedford RC discover in the Thames Cup.

Results from the first day

Thames Cup Aberdeen University beat Newcastle University 11-10. Newcastle University beat Aberdeen University 11-10. Newcastle University beat Aberdeen University 11-10. Newcastle University beat Aberdeen University 11-10. Newcastle University beat Aberdeen University 11-10.	Silver Goblets R. Rowland and J. Hunt (Worcester) (City of Cambridge), disqualified. J. Macdonald and M. Chatter (London RC) beat J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US), beat J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
Wyfold Cup London RC beat University of Kent, 11-10. University of Kent beat London RC, 11-10. University of Kent beat London RC, 11-10. University of Kent beat London RC, 11-10. University of Kent beat London RC, 11-10.	Ladies' Plate Brynham RC v/w University of Natal, South Africa, (US), beat University of Natal, South Africa, (US) 11-10. University of Natal, South Africa, (US), beat University of Natal, South Africa, (US) 11-10. University of Natal, South Africa, (US), beat University of Natal, South Africa, (US) 11-10. University of Natal, South Africa, (US), beat University of Natal, South Africa, (US) 11-10. University of Natal, South Africa, (US), beat University of Natal, South Africa, (US) 11-10.

Today's order of rowing at Henley

10.00: Thames Cup: Aberdeen University v Newcastle University 10.10: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 10.20: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 10.30: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 10.40: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 10.50: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC	11.00: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 11.10: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 11.20: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 11.30: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 11.40: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC 11.50: Wyfold Cup: Kent v London RC
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Boxing

Barrett puts up £100,000 for Sibson-Minter clash

Reuter reports. Cooney will box on the undercard of the Weaver-Tillis bout.

Larry Holmes, the World Boxing Council champion, was to meet the winner of the Weaver-Tillis contest, not Cooney, who is ranked No 1 by the WBA as well as the WBA. Cooney had signed managers of both boxers to discuss terms. He is confident the contest will go ahead.

It's the hottest fight in Britain," he said. "Sibson is keen to have the fight and I hope that Minter will want to try and regain the title he won when he went for the world championship."

Mike Weaver will defend his WBA bantamweight title in Atlantic City on July 25 against Puerto Rico's Julian Solis, the man he defeated eight months ago.

Polo

Hipwood scores four for Les Diables Bleus

By John Watson

Spectators at Midhurst yesterday were entertained to one of the most exciting, high-goal matches of the season. It was the sponsored British open championship match between Guy Wildenstein's Les Diables Bleus and the Centaurs, who are patronised by Jack Oxley, of Oklahoma, and his English friend, David Jamison.

Played on a dry, dusty pitch that was the hall bouncing and gave no comfort to ponies' legs, the score ran 6-6 in the first chukka and 7-5 in favour of Les Diables. The Centaurs were patronised by Jack Oxley, of Oklahoma, and his English friend, David Jamison.

For the winners, Hipwood, who was pulling a lot of his goalposts, neverless scored four times. Wildenstein twice and Graham once.

In the next set-to of the same tournament, when Cowdray's veteran No. 3, Paul Withers, fell and got trampled on by their ponies. He continued to play, but was obviously inhibited by pain; and Sladmore (a rather noisy squad, who have an impulsive habit of appealing to the umpire) won 10-8. Their hero was Apollonios Pteris.

LES Diables: 1. G. Wildenstein (2), 2. Prince of Wales (1), 3. Centaurs (1), 4. Oxley (1), 5. Jamison (1), 6. Herrera (1), 7. D. Jamison (1).

Swimming

Britain may not be outclassed in every event

From Athol Still, Kiev, July 2

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Ask your broker about Cornhill's competitive range of insurances—for your car, your house, your life and your business.

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DIAL THE TEST SCORE 154 in London—See your phone book in other areas.

Visitors' Cup

Durham University beat St. George's College, London 11-10.
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Double Sculls

E. R. Sims and G. R. Redgrave (Maidenhead) beat J. S. Connors and Miss J. M. Dorris (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

مكتبة الأمل

Elected public figures on new Ulster council

Atkins: Details of council's functions

COMMONS

The setting up of a representative Northern Ireland Council was announced by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in the House of Commons today.

He said he intended to set up the council by administrative act rather than by legislation and he would seek approval from the House of Commons.

In his speech, Mr Atkins set out in detail some of the proposed functions of the council. He envisaged that it would be composed of perhaps 50 persons already elected by Northern Ireland voters to the various district councils, the Commons, to the European Parliament and to the 26 Northern Ireland district councils.

Mr Atkins (Spelthorne, C) opening the debate, said that this House approves of the Government's proposal to continue the provisions of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 and the Northern Ireland Act 1974 for further periods.

He said that IRA propagandists sought to have the world believe that uniquely in Northern Ireland the British Government wanted to impose a form of terrorism on the people. As he had said on every occasion, he proposed that the Government would provide appropriate facilities to meet at the Parliament buildings, Stormont.

While justice was open to intimidation, judges to their great credit, were not. He felt unable to advise the House it was yet safe to return to the jury system in terrorist trials.

In the various forms of protest by prisoners in Northern Ireland, one had protested that the Government was not doing enough to achieve political status.

He had had to consider in deciding on the renewal of the emergency provisions, what would happen in the event of further deaths of hunger strikers which would fuel the vicious circle of hatred and bitterness.

I stand unequivocally for the rule of law. I am not a person who sees those who break the law arrested, brought before the court where the offences against the law are decided upon and if they are convicted of serious offences, I want them put away for the protection of the law-abiding public.

He regretted the recent statement by the IRA reiterating their claim for five demands which amounted to political provision.

There can be no doubt in anyone's mind now (he said) that the Government will never accede to that.

He urged the families of those on hunger strike to pass on the message to their relatives, although he realised that some would be urged by the cynical men who were manipulating the hunger strikers. They were simply being used and they should realise it.

On the interim Period Extension Order, which would extend the direct rule for a further 12 months, he said many people in the province approved of direct rule and did not think it should be changed.

The system had worked well over seven years and it provided a government acting with the authority of Parliament and the House of Commons together with a Secretary of State in the cabinet and a civil service.

They must build upon one positive achievement, the fact that relations between Britain and the Republic of Ireland, which were of immense value.

They had had to negotiate the constitutional future of Northern Ireland. Despite all the scaremongering, the accusation did not stick. He said that the House's endorsement of direct rule would be a great help.

All aspects of its role, the council would be advisory, not executive or legislative.

Naturally, he would, when asked for advice, come to the House with proposals. He would, in doing so, state a particular importance to the House of Commons, and the House would be able to accept or reject the proposals.

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And as responsive as it could be to the demands and needs of the Northern Ireland people. That was essential for the time being.

He hoped to move from this to a point where renewal of direct rule provisions would no longer be required because new stable governmental institutions had been established in Northern Ireland.

The council would enable the people of Northern Ireland, through representatives they had elected, to have a greater influence on the governance of their own province. It would also enable the Government, when taking decisions about Northern Ireland, to be even better informed about the views of the people there than they were at present.

As part of this process, I shall wish to have discussions with representatives of the Northern Ireland political parties. I shall also wish to have discussions with the elected members of the Commons, to the European Parliament and to the 26 Northern Ireland district councils.

Following that, I intend to present my final proposals to Parliament. I shall be anxious to ensure that there will be an opportunity for consideration.

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Concomitant Initiative

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EEC heads comprehend Thatcher policy

ECONOMY

Amid noisy scenes, during which the Speaker had to call more than once for order, the Prime Minister was present by Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, to say what she thought of yesterday's speech by Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, in which he was critical of government policies.

Mr Heath, who made his remarks at a London business conference, said in his speech that the Government's policies were "a disaster".

When Mr Foot asked her what she thought of the speech, she said that she was "not surprised" by it.

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spending more money than putting a good deal of it into increased pay.

The more we put into increased pay the less there is to spend on public investment. So, there is less available for more jobs.

More pay without more output means more unemployment. Mr Heath (Plymouth, SDP) said that Mr Heath's proposals for selective expansion are recommended by many in many parts of the country, not least Warrington's electors.

Some Tory and some Labour MPs might spend some time on footnotes and endnotes. Mr Heath said that he was not surprised by the speech, what he has envisaged has got nothing to do with the orderly way of trying to relate pay and prices together, but a reduction in real earnings during the coming year of an unprecedented kind.

Mr Geoffrey Howe: Over the last three years at a time when there was no matching increase in output, real personal earnings rose by 17 or 18 per cent while income in the corporate sector fell by 25 per cent. In these circumstances, there is a real personal earnings rise in the corporate sector.

As part of the way of securing a reduction in unemployment, there is an over-optimistic view of the pay moderation. Unduly high pay settlements mean unduly high unemployment.

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Gas and rail advertising attacked

ADVERTISING

Advertising campaigns by the British Gas Corporation and British Rail were condemned today by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, as being non-commercial, politically directed and a "waste of public money".

She had been asked by Mr Timothy Widdows, MP for North Devon, to seek powers to control the advertising expenditure of the nationalised industries.

Mrs Thatcher replied: It is not my intention to do so. Most nationalised industries advertising is of an ordinary commercial kind and the exceptions can be pursued through the courts.

She said that the advertising campaigns mounted by the British Gas Corporation and British Rail which have been criticised as non-commercial and politically directed, were a waste of public money.

The British Gas Corporation's present campaign is going to cost £2m. Mrs Thatcher said that she was not going to seek powers to control the advertising expenditure of the nationalised industries.

Mrs Thatcher: I share the desire for the nationalised industries to advertise in a non-commercial way, but I think that the advertising of BR and British Gas, neither of which are commercial, and both of which, we believe, are politically directed, are a waste of public money.

In the case of British Rail, the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Norman Fowler) has made his views known to the BR board. The Minister of Transport (Mr Norman Fowler) has made his views known to the BR board.

Mr Norman Fowler: I think it would be right for British Rail to advertise in a non-commercial way, but I think that the advertising of BR and British Gas, neither of which are commercial, and both of which, we believe, are politically directed, are a waste of public money.

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THE ARTS

Now is the time for tales and heroes



The enchantress Morgana (Helen Mirren) and the cherub boy Mordred (Robert Addie)

Concerts

New Music Studio, Budapest

Riverside

Not much new music has come out of Communist Hungary into Western Europe, but enough to show that Bartok and Kodaly have their descendants down to the second or third generation. The current week of Hungarian music at Riverside Studios in Hammersmith is mostly concerned with excellent artistry, but it did last night include a programme of recent avant-garde music given by an established group of performers and composers who regularly present such concerts, at home or on tour, usually including music from other countries, I understand.

They brought six pieces by six composers to Riverside, four of them among the six performers. Young Hungarian composers seem fascinated by the Ostinato school of Steve Reich. Phil Glass, Mike Oldfield, David Bedford and Terry Riley. Each of these composers were known here, has produced at least one meritorious piece in the repetitive style, and perhaps their Hungarian brothers also have. They didn't bring them to Hammersmith.

First came Zoltan Sere's "Tale", a piano, prepared so as to simulate the note stop on the harpsichord, played an irregular, moderately paced Ostinato, with punctuation from an unprepared normal piano, and occasional paragraph-spacing for solo viola. Change of mood rather than contribution to the design. It was plain, but did not outstay its welcome. Gyula Caspary's "Little Bird" (Madara in Hungarian) in Hungarian, in front of two pianos: they scratch designs on the drumskins, confirming each result with a note on the piano, rather like itemizing purchases on a shop's cash register. The drum scratches were amplified through loudspeakers: an activity, perhaps a contest, but not music, to my ears.

Laszlo Sary's "Pentatonic Exercise" for two pianos, one electronic, persisted doggedly in Ostinato, hypnotic for a while, afterwards dull because the music got no farther, yet went on and on. Sarnabas Dukatz played his "Duke's flowers", a piano piece consisting of common chords and single notes separated by long pauses, lengthy and barren: the chords, after a while, became a sort of musical quilt, yet, as our national anthem, and this is Chopin's military Polonaise, and what's that dominant 7th? — of course, one of Beethoven's symphonies.

Laszlo Vidovszky's Solo with instrumental obbligato: did offer contrast. Sander Papp, on the viola, played an extended melody in folk-style, while others accompanied, sometimes substantially so: it seemed context of musical famine. It was the least exacerbating item in a truly maddening concert: music can be as outrageous as it likes, but dullness is the ultimate sin.

William Mann

LMP/Blech/Szeryng

Festival Hall

To conduct or not to conduct? For all Harry Blech's sterling work with the London Mozart Players, for all the pitfalls and pedantry to which conductorless baroque and classical performances are prone, for most of Wednesday night the rostrum might well have been better empty.

One of the first of Papa Haydn's was an emphatic springing the little three-movement Symphony No 1 in D, was, in its 1759 premiere, directed by Haydn from the harpsichord. Transported from Count Morzin's palace to the Festival Hall it gained a conductor and a considerable number of strings: the result was that the work, albeit immaculately played, seemed genteel beyond its years, lacking both the invigorating interplay of chamber performance and the fresh, open-air colouring of the barely audible two oboes.

Haydn's first was complemented by Mozart's last in a performance of the Symphony No 41, more inspiring in the notation than in the execution; and the two symphonies framed two violin concertos: Bach's in A minor and Mozart's in G (K 216).

From the moment that he asked the violinists to move closer to him, it was clear that Harry Szeryng was to be as much director as soloist: in the Bach an authoritative but uninspiring teacher schooling obedient but uninspired pupils; in the Mozart a more-gentle, challenging player and audience alike to re-examine and recharge their sensibilities.

If the outer movements of the Bach, overweighed and rhythmically laborious, bore down the obligato-like character of the solo writing, the slow movement gave a foretaste of the introspective solo playing in which the very quality of sound itself was nurtured and grew slowly outwards each orchestral tutti, and which was to reach its apotheosis in the Mozart.

Here again Szeryng as much as Blech seemed to be in charge, watching and listening hawk-like for the particular character of each particular entry, and then matching its movement and timbre, from a resolute, woody strength to a birdlike, piping sweetness. Yet this was paradoxically, the most fascinating, in many ways an intensely private, inward performance, the slow movement's music freshly spun as if from Mr Szeryng's own deep feelings, the secret of the last seeming almost too precious to squander.

It was a performance which made the more poignant and thought-provoking, too, the knowledge that this work was written only 16 years after the Haydn symphony, and by a man eight years his junior.

Hilary Finch

Cinema

Excalibur (AA)

Warner West End

Clash of the Titans (A)

Empire

S.O.B (AA)

Leicester Square Theatre

Eyes of a Stranger (X)

Warner West End

All the recent biggest box office successes — the *Star Wars* cycle and *Superman* cycle among them — have been fantastic tales of super-heroes. Even James Bond (and they're queuing all day in Leicester Square) is really a mythological invincible in modern dress: the element of wonder is now much more important in the series than the earlier pseudo-sophistication of political thriller.

Hollywood promises a whole new series of what is called in the trade "sword and sorcery" pictures. John Boorman's *Excalibur* (technically, I suppose, an Irish film since he shot there, on location and in the National Studios) is a monumental harbinger.

If the world is looking for heroes, there are a few more suitable than King Arthur, whose lustrous rule of a glorious, ideal Britain has been a recurrent vision since the Middle Ages. John Boorman, who wrote and directed the *Excalibur*, has taken his version mainly from Malory, reinterpreting, though, in his own literary and visual style.

Without compromising the magical elements of the story, he sees his characters in realistic terms. Arthur, brought up a squire, is a simple yokel who learns only gradually the grand and eventually the majestic of kingship. Merlin, though his magic is real enough, is a tricky old buffoon, full of jests and regret for the passing of the age of wizardry. Apart from the demonic Morgana (Helen Mirren), women in this medieval world are required only to be fair and faithful and in the background. Knights, when they're not busy with chivalry, tend to be boozey, belated beggars.

At first the effect of the modern dialogue (but who dare say what was the conversational mode at Camelot?), of bringing the figures of myth down to the plains earth, is disconcerting. There is rather a lot of

roistering (with some unlikely speculation at a neo-oriental style for Arthurian dancing girls) and the clash of iron against iron in bloody close combat — recalling inevitably Monty Python's trip to the Grail. There are memories of other films: Boorman must have seen *King of Kings*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and the spectacle of Kurosawa's *Kagemusha*.

Once the style and premises are established though, myth takes over and the film soars above all such comparisons. Boorman reveals a wonderfully individual gift for embodying the mystical and the magical. Set pieces, like the crystalline cavern where Morgana incarnates the too glibly Merlyn, may look like designers' contrivances. It is rather out of the dark land and forests, mists, the light sparkling off *Excalibur* or blinding the seekers of the Grail, that Boorman creates his real wonders.

The magic takes off with the first appearance of Lancelot as an apparition in shimmering white. After that the film abounds with visions: the nightmare of a naked Lancelot

wrestling with his own armour; the fallen Lancelot and Guinevere, naked again, half-glumped in a misty wood; even pecking out the eyes of Morgana's knightly victims; the cherub boy Mordred (Robert Addie); the last battle, fogged with the dragon's breath.

It is a world where, in the proper style of myth, ordinary notions of time and place are willingly forgotten. We do not know or wonder if a quest takes seven years or seventy. Heroes do not age and die as ordinary men. Here, people can travel and see and speak in dreams.

The force of the visions is the belief that they impose, and which appears to come from the film makers' own total faith in their story. The old tales are told on their own terms, without the distance of detachment or disbelief, and they prove in the telling to have lost none of the power they have exerted on listeners for a thousand years.

It helps the illusion, of course, to have a cast so refreshingly free of well-known faces, demystified, by familiarity. Only the wizards Merlin

and Morgana are played by established stars; and since magicians are hams anyway, it doesn't matter that it is Nicol Williamson and Helen Mirren doing their turns. Nigel Terry masters the transformation of the awkward young Arthur to the regal older one; Nicholas Clay is a handsome Lancelot; and Paul Geoffrey an interesting Irish-romantic Percival.

With such a fresh, original, wholly individual reinterpretation of the legend, it is hard to comprehend the curious decision to introduce quotations from Wagner in the musical score. Discordant as they are with the rest of Trevor Jones' score — which includes quite interesting experiments with the sounds of medieval music — they intrude, much worse, a wholly different, opposing and too assertive interpretation of the Arthurian legend.

Perseus, if you like to be pedantic, must have been half brother to King Arthur. When that reckless old forger Geoffrey of Monmouth was cobbling together the old tales in the twelfth century, he stole the story of Arthur's conception

(with Merlin's aid, Uther Pendragon assumes the shape of Igraine's husband to get into her bed) from Zeus's deception on the wife of Amphitryon. And Zeus, in the course of another amorous adventure, begot Perseus.

The *Clash of the Titans*, a very free retelling of the Perseus legend, is a more innocent and traditional sort of movie — indeed it falls by patterns into the well-established patterns of Indian mythological films, with a rabble of very human immortals sitting up in their Olympus, battling over the destinies of the mortals beneath.

These Gods are a distinguished group of thespians: Lord Olivier as a sly Zeus; Maggie Smith (whose husband Beverly Cross wrote the workaday script) crotchety as ever as Hestia; Clair Bloom as Hera and Ursula Andress as Aphrodite.

Down on earth, tossed this way and that by their whims, is Perseus, played by Harry Hamlin, who looks as if he would be a demon in the forward line of a college

football team. He looks a bit slow-witted too, but has Burgess Meredith as his confidant and adviser, the actor Ammon. The actors though take second place to the special effects, supervised by an old master of the craft, Ray Harryhausen, who learned his trade at the knee of Willis O'Brien, creator of King Kong himself. There is a pleasant hand-crafted quality about these old-style stop-action effects that is not found in the more sophisticated techniques of recent science fiction films. The ancient world offers a lot of scope: there is graceful Pegasus, a knock-about comedy owl and a Bette Midler lookalike Medusa. It is touching to recognize the voice of Dame Flora Robson emerging from one of the three grotesque Graecae, with their single, shared crystal eye.

The press show demonstrated that it is a great entertainment for the very young, and 12-year-olds evidently thrill to the couple of brief and fairly chaste nude scenes.

Blake Edwards has clearly seen enough of Hollywood to

justify the jaundiced view of his black comedy *S.O.B.* He started work there as an actor 40 years ago and long before that, in 1914, he had an uncle who was a distinguished director — in silent.

S.O.B. is a movie a cleft and people in the know say it is much, much funnier if you can identify the real-life originals of these producers, directors, agents, stars, actors, bookers, press-men and yes-men. Less informed audiences may well find it hard to believe in a society where people, down to the last man, share such bad manners, bad morals and bad manners, and wallow in their multi-million dollar vulgarity. It is not easy to make comedy where everyone is so repugnant. The only nice person in the picture is a dog who spends the film looking after the corpse of his master, an old forgotten actor who has dropped dead of a coronary on the beach. Nobody else in Hollywood has time to bother.

The worst of it is that it all rings true, or at least say it even the story of the director who makes the all-time \$30 million flop, buys it back from the studio and reshoots it as a sincere effort to hit the jackpot. There are some funny barbed lines and rather less successful knockabout. Generally it is funnier the straighter it is played. Robert Walker's dyspeptic press agent, Shelley Winters's ruthless agent, William Holden's libidinous director and above all the admirable Robert Preston's special-services physician come off very much better than the overdoing of Richard Mollart in the central role, or Loretta Swit as a vicious gossip columnist.

Julie Andrews is the Peter Pan star who turns Emmanuelle for the good of the grosses: when she finally bares her breasts, she does it with the awesome deliberation of someone who knows that this is indeed a moment of motion picture history.

The good thing about *Eyes of a Stranger* — made by the same production group as *Friday the 13th* — is that a very few pictures like this might effect the speedy demise of the current horror cycle. With a rapacious and bloody sex killer and a lady TV newscaster who stalks him with energy but remains like this intelligence, it goes zombie-like through all the motions of the genre.

The final quarry who (according to formula) does for the killer is, in this distasteful film, a blind deaf-mute; and it seems a dubious idea that the war of the Disabled that a dose of sexual assault quite cures the disabilities that have defied all the efforts of conventional medicine.

David Robinson

Dance

False steps at home and abroad

Swan Lake

Coliseum

Luckily, *Swan Lake* can be sure to fill the theatre, whatever the production is like. And the crowds who flock to the Coliseum this week and next have one thing to look forward to: Rudolf Nureyev in a role he has not danced here for some time.

Forget the odd costumes he has to wear; his first one, as a Wertherish student type, actually suits him particularly well, and the later one, a conventional nondescript ballet tunic and tights, is more or less unobjectionable once he is allowed to remove the cloak and hat he first has to wear over it. Nureyev, as the neglected, imagined wrongly that mummy was giving a costume ball, and dressed up as Ludwig of Bavaria.

What matters most, however, is the dancing, and nobody knows more than Nureyev about how to present a classical solo to make sure that you really see its structure, and to bring out its meaning too. He has sensibly brought him into the Boston Ballet's production his own melancholy slow dance for the first act (usually, I am told, they dance a number vaguely based on it) and the version of the third act bravura solo, which he has followed since his Kirov days.

Last night he danced both of them elegantly, clearly and with feeling, and those qualities appeared also in his acting, whatever oddities were happening around him, and in his dancing of Boston's French Odette-Odile, Marie-Christine Mouis. All the same, it was sad to see him appearing in what is frankly a very poor production with a company which, on this showing, is not ready for international exposure.

Although advance publicity indicated that the production was by Violette Verdy, she seems not to be responsible only for the choreography of the two



Rudolf Nureyev and Marie-Christine Mouis

lakeside scenes: a wishy-washy approximation to the standard Ivanov version of Act 2, although with disconcerting accents and fluffed details; and a treatment of Act 4 that begins as would-be lyricism and ends as a fugged drama.

The other two scenes have choreography by Bruce Wells. Its general shape again follows more or less traditional lines, but he has made a thoroughgoing new treatment of every dance, generally with appalling consequences. The one thing you can say in his favour is that it proves the dancers to have lots of energy, which they exercise unstintingly. But do not expect style, sense or musicality, or you will be disappointed.

Which of the two choreographers was responsible for the general concept of the production is not revealed, but in fact its total effect is influenced less by either of them than by the extraordinary choice of Julia Trevelyan Oman as designer. For the unusual nature of Ashton's *Enigma Variations* (which was originally her idea anyway) she invented a splendid decor, but her unimaginative semi-realistic manner is disastrous in the context of this classic.

She gives the ballet its coup de grace by dressing the villain, Von Rothbart, as a giant, feathery, paunchy, po-faced owl. All he can do in that costume is stand about sadly or flap his wings 'reproachfully', as if

trying to protest at unseemly behaviour in his words. We all know that the original libretto specified an owl's form for him, but that has to be interpreted a lot less literally if he is to have any menace at all.

In a different production, I imagine that the Boston company's extremes of types among its dancers might be interesting, they come in a wider range of heights, shapes and ages than most classical ballet companies. The one thing they seem to share, unfortunately, is a lack of polish, and especially of musicality.

That is surprising in a company with Verdy, the most musical of all dancers, as joint director, and perhaps her influence in the long term will permeate them. On last night's showing, their musical direction is not what might be desired; Michel Sasson seemed determined to show just how bristly all the fast tempi could be taken, and to spin out the slower passages almost beyond belief.

Marie-Christine Mouis made an acceptable, if flashy and inept, Odile. She seems less suited to the lyrical scenes for Odette, the other half of the double role, and nowhere did she reveal the quality she showed when she danced MacMillan's *Song of the Earth* in Paris. Everyone else danced energetically, but the acting throughout was sadly heavy-handed.

John Percival

Theatre

The Misanthrope

Round House

Arriving in London barely a month after its opening at the Manchester Royal Exchange, Casper Wrede's production renews its powerfully unfashionable argument for reviving foreign classics without hitching them to yesterday's news.

The performance springs from a single-minded conviction that Moliere knows his business and can do without directorial footnotes. The style is that of an enlarged studio show played in the round with three ornate doorways and a few silver furnishings. And Richard Wilbur's translation has clearly been chosen for its metrical and comic faithfulness to the author, even if it is over 20 years old (National Theatre, please note).

The only joke that is not Moliere's own is made in Malcolm Pryde's costumes, which begin modestly enough with Alceste's green ribbons, and then take off into a barbed and bejewelled orgy of Beardsleyan extravagance that reaches its climax in the

fantastically gilded and plumed outfit of the marshalsea guard, a four-line part.

With Tom Courtenay in the lead breaking all the rules of the surrounding polite society, this is not a company show; but one of its great pleasures is the shared work of a company who are not afraid of rhymed couplets. With one (otherwise well acted) exception they convert the prison of metre into dramatic energy, getting their punch lines and their puns from it, testing its elasticity for conversation inflections, and using it to make the play dance.

The stage even suggests a ballroom floor, with Nicholas Amer's balletically dignified Basque resetting the chairs for each new number. Each scene is formally choreographed; with the two idiot marquesses (Ian Hastings and Tim McInerney) arriving in mincing march rhythm, and delivering their backbiting pleasantries through clenched-teeth smiles; or James Ellis's virtuously reserved Alceste standing up and circling the group as she delivers her modest defence of amorous compromise. The transitions are also beautifully marked; as between Alceste's (Amanda Bower) virtuous courtesies to Célimène, which give way to knee-trembling desire as soon as Alceste sets foot in the room.

relaxed presentation of the assembled comments on and by Britain's past monarchs. Depending on the other RSC programmes each night, there will be different actors to speak the material, but such is the depth of the company's strength that actors on future nights will include Richard Pasco, Michael Pennington and Janet Suzman.

Those who were there on the opening night to speak the words of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, of Horace Walpole and Fanny Burney and the others, were Alan Howard, Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Norman Rodway, while Martin Best lent the clear expressivity of his voice to the singing, since the material might seem stale in lesser hands, at least to those who have seen earlier productions, the company seems intent on exploring

every cranny of the writing. They slip into playful characterizations, of which none is more playful than Miss Leigh-Hunt's Fanny Burney, recounting a discussion on the 'art' of George III — although George's most noted admirer, the bridegroom and heir to the throne, Prince Charles, might look askance on her Germanic portrait of George.

Yet Mr Howard is most diverse in his readings, turning James I into a Scottish minister with his *Counterblast to Tobacco*, and curiously sending a secret memorandum about a proposed marriage in the role of Henry VIII. Mr Rodway even appeared to see William Thackeray as a Donald Sinclair character. It is just such acting that will keep Mr Barton's assemblage fresh throughout the summer.

Ned Chaillet

The Hollow Crown

Fortune Theatre

The *Hollow Crown* has never quite been away. Revivals around the world have kept John Barton's royal compilation going, and from company to company with more persistence than real crowns. The glamour of the present revival, in tandem with the Terry Hands celebration of love, *Pleasure and Repentance*, is patently a bow to the royal wedding, but I would like to think it is also a sort of support for the Fortune Theatre, which has suffered enough ill-fortune in the past few years to be placed on the market.

The sweet intimacy of the theatre is just right for the Royal Shakespeare Company's

presentation of the assembled comments on and by Britain's past monarchs. Depending on the other RSC programmes each night, there will be different actors to speak the material, but such is the depth of the company's strength that actors on future nights will include Richard Pasco, Michael Pennington and Janet Suzman.

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Ned Chaillet

Television

Fake?

BBC 2

I don't know much about art but I know what I like and that is a tale about the art experts getting had by some cunning forger. And this was just the sort of story Edwin Mullins had to have last night on BBC 2. Was Georges de la Tour's famous *Fortune Teller*, owned by the Metropolitan Museum in New York, a genuine work of the seventeenth century French artist or had someone run it off in a garret somewhere? And if it was a fake was it part of some worldwide conspiracy or simply a joke as the word *merde* half concealed on one of the figures made some experts think?

The normally easy-going but quite earnest Edwin Mullins had a marvelous time with this one. I suppose it was a bit like the *Merde* in the last 400? Well, the defence came in. Professor Michael Kitson of London University said the mistakes mentioned by Mr Wright were quite common. John Brealey, an Englishman now at the Metropolitan, said the word *merde* was just one of those jokes restorers are always playing.

A Picture restorer friend of his, he said, used to paint dry bicycles at the feet of crucifixes. Mrs Stella Blum of the Metropolitan showed us seventeenth century paintings with clothes just like the de la Tour. Chemical tests showed the picture was old. Then Mullins, playing the 'tec', went to France and traced the mysterious Frenchman who turned out to be a Count Jacques Colier. He

showed Mullins a dusty ledger, an inventory done of the family castle in 1679 with the de la Tour mentioned and valued at a mere 250 francs.

Meanwhile back in Florida, Mullins located Paddy O'Connor, who said he had seen the painting painted. O'Connor said he was just telling lies while having a few and that that he was not a patch on the King Alfonso named him on the back and said how he liked it much better than the first one. *Fake?* was altogether first rate entertainment and perhaps said a lot as well about the art world, although I don't think the art world would like what it had to say.

Stanley Reynolds

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

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July 9, eve
July 9, eve
Polly James
Ann Fribank

Terrence Hardiman
David King

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SINDEN COWARD

PRESENT LAUGHTER VAUDEVILLE

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Why Ulster cannot afford to go it alone

It is 60 years since the then King George VI opened the Stormont Assembly in Northern Ireland. On the day that he did, *The Times* editorial spoke of a new addition to the Empire. The clear belief was that a new independent state was coming in to existence. So yesterday's call by the former Premier James Callaghan for a move towards Ulster independence is not such a new idea: he is re-opening a book which has lain closed for years.

Those years, particularly the most recent of them, have seen a profound change in the Ulster economy. Could Northern Ireland take its place in the world as an independent state? The answer is not yet; it will take many years to undo the ravages of the 1970s. Any move towards separating Ulster from the United Kingdom would have to be accompanied by a long-term commitment to provide development assistance.

Some of the money could come from other members of the European Community, but the rest of Britain would have to accept that it would pay subsidies to an independent country unless it was prepared to witness a huge drop of living standards in the North.

At present, Northern Ireland gets a direct subsidy from the United Kingdom of £780m for its 1.1m people. That works out at just over £500 per head or £10 a week for every man, woman and child in the province. That sum is almost exactly the same as the gap between living standards in the North and those in the Republic.

In fact the true cost to the rest of United Kingdom is higher than £780m. There are extra payments for pensions (specially mentioned by Mr. Callaghan) which take the total up to £1,000m a year. Throw in the cost of law and order and the price rises to £1,500m a year, or about half the total of public spending in Northern Ireland being paid for by a



subsidy from the rest of Britain.

If the North were an independent state, it would be running the biggest trade deficit in the world for its size. In 1978, the last date for which figures are available, there was a trade deficit equivalent to virtually a third of the "country's" gross product.

How has this come about? The answer is that two forces have been at work producing ever increasing subsidies from London to the North. The first is the disintegration of the manufacturing base of the Ulster economy. The second is pressure within the province and in the rest of the United Kingdom to raise living standards.

The chart shows how Ulster's industry has collapsed under the hammer blows of decline in Britain and its own troubles. Once Belfast was one of the great manufacturing cities of the Empire, turning out ships and textiles in enormous quantities. Even when these industries started to run into problems, manufacturing re-

mained the backbone of the Ulster economy, the thing which distinguished it from the agricultural South.

In 1960, over 40 per cent of all the jobs were in manufacturing and although the 1960s saw a drop in the number of manufacturing jobs, the level of output in the province rose impressively.

All that stopped in the early seventies. Much of the setback has been caused by recession in the rest of the United Kingdom, though the troubles have made it harder to get manufacturers to set up. Although grants are generous and many jobs are subsidized, the Republic has offered aid packages which have had none of the problems of further North.

Yet in spite of this run-down of industry, which by 1979 was down to little more than a quarter of all jobs, the total amount of employment in Ulster has gone up. The reason, as was pointed out recently by Bob Rowthorn of Cambridge University, is the explosive growth of the public sector. The

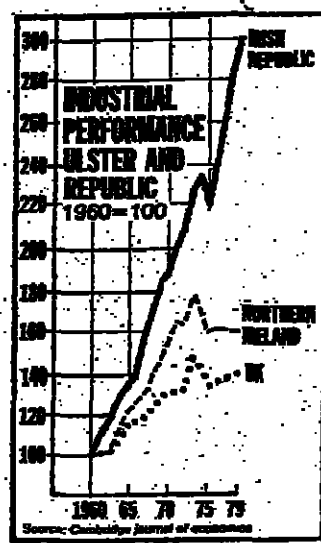
number of government jobs went up by half during the seventies, a much bigger growth than in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Paying for this has been expensive. The cost of the British subsidy to Northern Ireland doubled between 1968 and 1978 even after the effects of inflation are taken out. But it was an essential part of the approach to the problems adopted by successive governments.

Since Ulster was part of Britain, it was indefensible that the standard of public services in the province should be lower than in the rest of the United Kingdom. So there have been huge increases in spending on health, education and other social services.

These improvements in the standards of service have created jobs to replace those wiped out in manufacturing. But they have not always provided jobs of the kind which those made redundant from the textile mills could fill.

An independent Ulster would not be able to pay for



One of the few flourishing industries in Northern Ireland: an engineer at Shorts of Belfast working on the Comander 360 aircraft, which made its first flight recently.

the quality of public services which have grown up over recent years—which is far higher than that in the South—unless it got continuing aid. The problem it would face is that whatever the good intentions, it is unlikely that a United Kingdom which is certain to face economic difficulties throughout the 1980s would actually be willing to go on paying large sums to a country with which it had severed links.

Nor could Ulster probably afford to go on with such high living standards for those who have jobs. One of the major campaigns of the 1970s has been to achieve equal pay with workers in Great Britain.

They have not got there yet, but they are a lot closer than they were 15 years ago. So at a time when Britain as a whole has been pricing itself out of world markets, Northern Ireland has been becoming a more expensive place in which to make things compared with other parts of Britain. The result

has been rising industrial subsidies, of which the recurrent hand-outs to Harland and Wolff are the most famous example. If these were to be cut off, many of the manufacturing jobs which still exist would be in immediate jeopardy.

The hope for Ulster in that sort of situation would have to be that it could achieve some of the same sort of growth which its southern neighbour has known over the past decade.

The only way an independent Ulster could hope to compete would be an immediate devaluation of its currency, probably tying it to the Irish punt, which is now worth only 80p, after years in which it was linked to the pound. That might not be a bad thing in any case for a country which has over 17 per cent unemployment—one of the disadvantages to Ulster of its membership of the United Kingdom has that it has not been able to pursue an independent exchange rate policy of its own.

But the gains from that should not be exaggerated. The rest of Britain is bound to remain overwhelmingly dominant in Ulster's trade. There have been many efforts to encourage cross-border links with EEC money, but trade with the Republic still accounts for only a very small part of total activity.

Nor could the Republic take over the cost of support from the United Kingdom. The Dublin Budget is in heavy deficit. There is no possibility of it assuming such a heavy burden. So an independent Ulster, whatever its political attractions, would need to rely just as heavily as it does at present on outside help, with the United Kingdom playing the major part.

David Blake
Economics Editor

Cambridge Journal of Economics, Vol. 5, No. 1, March 1981.

A fat lot some people care about dieting

Michael Leppman reports from New York about a group stoutly opposing widely held opinions on obesity.

Few self-respecting Americans nowadays regard themselves as part of an oppressed and stigmatized group. Day after day, our sympathies are sought by indignant blacks, women, homosexuals, landlords, tenants, Irish, old people, young people... the list is endless.

The National Association to Aid Fat Americans (NAAFA), based in New York, is one of the least-fertile rows to hoe. Fat, both the word and the corpulent condition it describes, has never been more despised in polite society—in the latest best-seller list, that reliable guide to social attitudes, three of the top six books are about dieting.

The fat folk resent this. They say the promotion of weight loss as desirable implies that to be fat is despicable. On a more practical level, they point out that dieting, for most people in the long term, does not work. Despite all the anti-fat propaganda, membership of the association is growing.

"There is a lot of suppressed rage in fat people," says William Falter, president of NAAFA, who founded the group 12 years ago. "The traditional myth of the jolly, laughing fat person is wrong."

Yet as if to disprove his point, Mr. Falter has assembled a group of five jolly, fat women (alternatively, five jolly fat men) in an apartment above the association's headquarters in Bellerose, a middle-class suburb just inside the eastern limit of New York City. They each weighed 20 stone or more and most rippled from ample, flowing dresses in purples, mauves and reds.

They joked and giggled and explained that they could not act in this relaxed fashion because they had learnt not to exactly to love their flesh, at least not to despise it. Must have spent years dieting unsuccessfully before accepting, in the words of Mrs. Lisbeth Fisher, the executive secretary, that "I am fat and am going to be fat all my life."

Joining NAAFA is, as Mrs. Fisher says, a traumatic experience, because it means denying the conventional wisdom that fat is ugly. It means correcting the assumption of friends and relatives that you are trying to lose weight and complaining when they pointedly exclude you when passing around cakes, pies and sweets.

"People say: 'Susan, you don't really need that other piece of bread,'" said Mrs. Susan Hoey, the recently divorced mother of a four-year-old child. "When I told my mother I was joining NAAFA she said: 'That means you're not going to try any more.'"

Discrimination comes in more tangible forms, too. The five women complained that clothes manufacturers assume that fat people want to disguise their bulk in flowing gowns and dresses. The dazzling clothes they wore at the meeting were a calculated challenge to that preconception.

"The talk of 'slenderizing' fashions," said Miss Nancy Summer, who works for a toy company, "I don't want to look slender. I used to wear a slim-line giraffe until it dawned on me that instead of looking as though I weighed 350lb (25 stone) I looked as though I weighed 345."

Mrs. Joanne Preissler works as a "super-size model" in New York's garment-manufacturing district off Seventh Avenue. Only in the last year or so has demand for her services grown. Until then, clothing designers had made clothes for fat people by simply extending the measurements of smaller "sized" making for an imperfect fit.

"It's hard to get designers to design sexy clothes for fat women," she said. "I have to get them to realize that I'm an attractive woman and men want to look at me."

"It's getting a bit better," said Mrs. Fisher. "When I wanted to buy a gown for a function a few years ago I couldn't get one that didn't

make me look like the mother of the bride. Now they are starting to realize that there are women out there with money in their fat little hands."

Mrs. Preissler complains that fashion people never use the word "fat" when talking to her. "They call it 'this'," she said. "They say 'it doesn't sit right over this'." Mrs. Fisher says that when people telephone with inquiries about NAAFA, they all they can say to avoid the offending word.

"Yet they talk about taking home a fat pay cheque," she pointed out. "And they talk about planning-up cushions."

There are other ways in which life is tough for the portly. Restaurants seldom have chairs high enough. Turnstiles at underground railway stations and in many supermarkets are an embarrassingly tight squeeze. They complain loudly of all about doctors, who, they allege, diagnose almost every ailment they suffer as a consequence of their weight. NAAFA challenges weight standards accepted by the medical profession when judging life expectancy.

They claim that dieting, which tends to make a person's weight rise and fall like yo-yo, is more harmful to health than staying fat. "If there was a cure for obesity, how come there are so many cures?" Miss Summer wondered.

Some of the women were unable to tell me exactly how



An eighteenth-century print of a fashion-conscious lady.

much they weighed because domestic scales seldom go above 22 stone, 22nd-century scales not above 10 stone. At one clinic I was sent down to the meat scales in the basement," said Miss Summer indignantly.

Doctors say people are overweight when 10 per cent above the norm, for men, height, and when 20 per cent over. If double the norm—like all the women in the group—they are called morbidly obese, and they resent that too.

"Why morbid?" Miss Summer asked. "Don't thin people die?"

"They just fade away," Mrs. Hoey responded. "Come on," Mr. Falter chimed. "No anti-thin jokes." The company laughed merrily.

The woman said that until they joined the group, it was painful to be seen in public and would never think of wearing a swimming costume: now they swim quite a lot.

Miss Summer told of a traumatic and ironic experience some years ago. She was waiting for a man to call and was behind her and, in the train she opened the letter, saw the word "fat" and was covered with embarrassment. As a result, she stopped travelling by train and took a job nearer home.

Years later she found out that the man was Mr. Fabre, in an early and unsuccessful attempt at recruiting members by singling out fat people in crowds—which he now realizes was dreadful mistake.

He said: "Out of them: two people joined and the other 198 snored using the railroad." More hearty rolls of laughter. It was time to close the meeting and decide who should be sent out to buy pizza.

Peter Watson

Do summits only lead to trouble at the top?

David Watt

The fifteenth-century diplomatist, Philippe de Commines wrote that two great princes who want to establish good relations should never meet face to face. The majority of officials in the world's foreign ministries would agree with this dictum—and the substitution of 15 or 150 "princes" for two certainly does not make the argument any weaker.

The classic case against summit conferences is that diplomacy is a job for professionals. Good relations between states means the accommodation of conflicting interests; and accommodation means clear understandings couched in precise language and unclouded by considerations of personal animosity or hostility. Trained diplomats are capable of producing and working in this rather clinical environment. Heads of government, with their massive egos, their ignorance of the essential details and their ingrained belief in the value of backslapping ambiguity, simply mess everything up.

Things appear to be made even worse under the eye of modern communications. Heads of government personality regimes; everything is expected of them, and a failure reduces the credibility of government and even of the state itself. Since this cannot be allowed, every summit meeting must be a "success" for each of its members. That being normally impossible, even with the aid of the most bland and skilful communicators, the individual summiters must

either make unwise concessions or a tremendous row.

This general indictment of the process is worth recalling as we move into a summer and autumn of hectic summitry. An EEC summit took place this week; this month the "big seven" economic powers—the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Japan—meet at Ottawa; the Commonwealth prime ministers meet in Melbourne in September; there is a big north-south economic summit in Mexico in October; and after that the European Council (chaired this time by Mrs. Thatcher) comes around again. Can all this activity achieve anything, or is it likely to be another long demonstration of frustration and hypocrisy?

On the face of it, the prospect ranges from poor to horrible. Indeed so far as practical agreement is concerned, there can scarcely ever since the last war have been less auspicious moments for meeting. Of the West-West summits (Luxembourg, Ottawa, London) only the last has the slightest prospect of achieving any serious advance (on EEC finance). Otherwise the combination of new incumbents (Reagan, Mitterrand, Suzuki, Spadolini), shaky governments (Schmidt, Spadolini and Suzuki) and the sheer difficulty of the economic outlook make progress virtually impossible.

Take the main subjects on the Ottawa agenda, for instance. The United States Government has not the

slightest intention of lowering American interest rates in response to calls from the Europeans, and in any case the Europeans (as was seen in Luxembourg) are divided on the subject. Similarly the Japanese will, with the utmost politeness, evade all attempts to get them to impose restraints on their "torrential" exports to Europe.

In the case of the North-South summits (Melbourne and Mexico) even less is likely to emerge. Fashionable ideological opposition in the developed countries to all forms of intervention combines with fears of global inflation and simple shortage of cash at a time of drastic economic emergency to produce a climate extremely hostile to any kind of development assistance.

President Reagan may go to Mexico and read the riot act to the developing world for the edification of his home constituency, or he may, more likely, try to be smooth, avuncular, fashionable. Either way the result will be the same—disappointed hopes and much recrimination.

Why then do these eminent gentlemen (and ladies) intend to go gallivanting about the globe in this way instead of minding their own business? The answer is not all equally

good, but they are all, none the less, compelling.

The first and perhaps least reputable is the necessity of being seen to "do something". It may in the long run be disillusioning if the rulers of the earth take counsel together to deal with some emergency and nothing whatever ensues, but in the short run it is reassuring to the voters to think that their man is bounding on the top table, on their behalf.

This is particularly true of the developing countries, who can in fact bring a little moral pressure to bear on their OECD colleagues in this way providing they do not overplay their hand. Even the leaders of the developed countries can occasionally expect to change each other's minds on specific questions in dispute, and in hard times, it is always worth a shot.

A better reason, also political, is the opportunity a summit gives a leader to praise virtue and still get away with it. For instance, it is the educated consensus of the developed world that free trade is good and protection is bad. On the other hand that is not the perception of a hundred different groups and lobbies in every country.

The assertion that higher tariffs would harm the general good is far easier if proclaimed in *ex cathedra*, by the united leaders of the Alliance.

The majority of the politicians who actually attend summits do not, of course, often own to either of these motives. Most will tell you that the chief value is in fact the old classic doctrine of *dissemis*: namely the opportunity to know the mind of the person in charge of another country—and one that no theory ever mentions at all—the chance to think about longer term issues.

This penchant is in part a matter of membership in a rather exclusive club; it is also, on occasion, a matter of relaxation. The main point, however, is the fact that most modern presidents and prime ministers are at normal times remarkably blinkered.

The task of day-to-day administration and political management presses on them, and if they look at the international scene beyond the immediate crisis issue, it is mainly through the eyes of their own senior civil servants. To be obliged to examine a strategy through the eyes of people who have equal but different responsibilities and on whom it may be at some stage necessary to rely is an essential contribution of their political intelligence.

The trouble, then, with most summits in today's conditions is not that they serve no useful purpose. It is rather that they are usually badly organized for the purpose that they serve best, being so often expected to resolve ad hoc disputes, whether about Japanese cars, about sheep meat, or about commodities, and all in a blaze of publicity.

The Mexico summit will be more or less of a disaster being far too large and too confrontational. The Ottawa summit will be rather better, if only because it will give the seven some chance to get to know Messrs Reagan and Mitterrand. But it, too, will be a missed opportunity. At 36 hours, of which three or four will probably be taken up with approving the communiqué which has been drafted weeks in advance by officials, it is far too short to tackle the long-term political and economic issues that cry out for examination at this level—East-West trade, the security of the Gulf, energy questions and a host of others. Also, being one of an infrequent series, far too much is expected of it.

The two remaining meetings constitute the best models for these affairs. The Commonwealth prime ministers' meeting every two years can afford to give themselves a leisurely and highly edifying week—the only really satisfactory North-South dialogue that is at present going on.

The European Council, on the other hand, is regular, reasonably frequent, and flexible. It can if necessary be used to settle disputes and can formally bless agreements reached. But it also offers, in a crucial field, the psychological and political insights that constitute the necessary education of modern political leaders—that is, if they are able and willing to be educated.

Publishers want to bring America to book

Ten leading British publishers, among them such well-known names as Faber and Faber, Cape, Collins, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, and Hamish Hamilton have complained to the Publishers' Association about the most serious rash of copyright infringement in living memory.

In recent months the publishers have been licensed to find that an increasing number of general-interest books published by British firms have had to compete with much cheaper American editions of the same works which have been imported by middlemen, who in turn sold them to remainder bookshops. The practice has now mushroomed to the level where legal action is being contemplated by the association on the publishers' behalf.

Faber appear to have been particularly badly hit. Via the association's solicitor, they have approached the Squire bookshop in Oxford Street, complaining about Squire's alleged sale of *The Letters of Gustav Mahler*. The Faber edition retails at £15 whereas at Squire the American version cost £4.95. A spokesman for Squire said that they were sorry it had been a mistake, and that as from yesterday the unsold copies had been sent to Faber.

But Faber are also believed to be worried about four other titles, including the letters of Bela Bartok and works by Ted Hughes and Lawrence Durrell. (The authors,

of course, suffer as well as the publishers.)

Essentially, the problem has arisen because American publishers, granted the rights to publish and sell particular titles of British books in Canada and the United States, have been forced for economic and taxation reasons to remainder stock. These foreign editions, some of which are still in print in Britain, have then been circulating in the world market, only to emerge in our remainder shops at very low prices.

As many as 40 titles may be affected already and no one knows when still more "pirate" editions may appear.

Frears' treat

Dedicated followers of fashion can look forward to a rare treat next week when Berman and Nathans, the internationally famous film and theatrical costumers, stage a grand sale.

Up to 4,000 items of clothing, including the screen-printed trousers that Keith Moon wore in the movie *Tommy*, Adam Ant-style military jackets and surplus jumpsuits from the space-station sequence in the James Bond film *Moonraker*, are to be sold, for anything from £3 to £100.

Punks, young romantics and fancy dress lovers will be able to pick up evening dresses as worn in *The Boys From Brazil*, loincloths from near prehistoric times and what manager Gerald Moulton describes as "a very nice" Hussar's Jacket.

The sale, which takes place at the firm's Irving Street headquarters next Saturday, has been prompted by the need to thin out a huge and

THE TIMES DIARY

The news that the United States is to supply Israel with F16 fighters after all will be welcome to Mr. Begin, but he must be hoping the Americans will not make the same mistake as last time—and deliver the planes on the Sabbath. Five years ago, on a Friday in December 1976, three F15 fighters arrived from the United States at a military airfield in Israel, and were met by a welcoming committee headed by the then Labour Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin. Unfortunately, the planes came in 20 minutes late, just as dusk was falling, and by the time the ceremony was over the Sabbath had begun. The religious parties were so incensed at this sacrilege that they tabled a censure motion in the Knesset, despite the fact that they were in coalition with Labour. The coalition collapsed, and Mr. Begin won the ensuing election, forming a coalition with the religious parties. He now hopes to do the same again—barring, that is, the odd Sabbath-breaking incident over the next month or so.

ever-growing collection of costumes. More than a million items are stored in B and N's Camden warehouse alone.

The fashion-conscious will also be pleased to learn that the firm is extending into the retail business for the first time. Their Irving Street foyer is to be used to sell costume items, original designs, posters and film and theatrical memorabilia.

Bedroom farewells

John Poole-Hughes, the Bishop of Llandaff, has sent me two further examples of ways to get rid of guests who have overstayed their welcome. We have clearly unearthed a rich seam for a budding anthropologist in search of a Ph.D. topic. (*The Unwanted Guest: A Structural*



middle of the day, on the assumption that he cannot see the way home adequately, or she can sweep the path ahead of him to make sure there is no small barrier to his taking the road out."

On second thoughts, rather than combining all these into a Ph.D. someone should collect them in a small book, complete with embarrassing cartoons. All this started in the first place with ideas for boring bedside reading that would help drop the hint to guests that their

hosts had had enough. Once such a book appeared by the bed, the guest would know his time was up. It's the perfect answer.

Hot humour

Medical school deans, fearing for their colleges in the current round of university cuts, are not noted for their sense of humour these days. An exception is Professor Sir John Walton, president of the British Medical Association and a world-renowned neurologist.

In his ten years as dean of Newcastle medical school, all has not been sweetness and light, he admits. In the men's lavatory at his medical school where a modern hot-air hand-drier has been installed, he says, some supporter has written alongside: "For a short message from the dean, press the red button."

Goon gap

The BBC has been receiving plenty of protest from abroad about the Government axing of the BBC Transcription Service, which sells radio programmes to foreign stations. But few have made a more poignant plea than Radio Ikrurani, one of the tiniest subscribers to the service, which broadcasts on the Cook Islands, midway between Tahiti and Tonga. 70 per cent of its programmes come from the BBC. If the station will not only have to fill huge gaps, but the Cook Islanders will be deprived of their regular diet of such programmes as the *Goon Show* and *Scotch and Son*.

A real hit

When the Vatican Radio put on sale last month a cassette recording of its own live commentary on the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II, many people thought the venture grotesque, overly commercial and in bad taste. "Are the merchants back in the temple?" asked one Italian newspaper headline. But it now appears the Vatican's public opinion was well: the first edition of the tape, which ends with the halting voice of the Pope reading the prayer "Salve Regina" from his hospital bed, has already sold out.

Toying with words

Rubik's cube, that irritating, compulsive and seemingly impossible toy, has received an unusual honour. After being voted toy of the year in many countries, including Britain, it has now won a place in the permanent design collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The 21st cube is named after its inventor, Professor Erno Rubik of Budapest. Each side is made up of nine mini-cubes that rotate in all directions. Strong men have been known to wear it at its frustrating complexity to the American, try to form, now have a book to help them. *The Simple Solution to Rubik's Cube* is its title; but the six-step formula is not my idea of simple: it takes most people hours to put into effect.

Peter Watson

مكتبة الأمل



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PEACE AND PRINCIPLE

Two new proposals for the future of Northern Ireland were put forward in the House of Commons yesterday. One, from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. Humphrey Atkins, is designed essentially to make the operation of direct rule more acceptable to the people of the province. The other, from Mr. James Callaghan, is more radical.

Mr. Atkins accepts that there is no immediate alternative to direct rule, for the simple reason that there is not a sufficient measure of agreement among the politicians of Northern Ireland on any new system. The parties representing the two communities there cannot agree either on an arrangement for power-sharing in a new devolved assembly, or to have an assembly without power-sharing. But without such an assembly, or a new top tier of local government, there is undoubtedly a gap in the province's political institutions.

Mr. Atkins intends to fill this gap with a Northern Ireland Council composed of people already elected by the voters to other representative bodies: the House of Commons, the European Parliament or the twenty-six district councils. Representatives would be nominated by their respective parties in proportion to their electoral strength. The council would therefore consist of elected representatives without itself being directly elected. Its function would be purely advisory.

Such an arrangement would have certain modest advantages. It would provide a greater outlet for political activity in the

province. It would keep the British Government more closely in touch with Northern Irish opinion than the MPs can possibly do by themselves on a range of matters. It would be a standing forum in which Northern Irish representatives could themselves keep on trying to work out acceptable arrangements for the future government of the province. But unless and until it managed to devise such proposals it would be no more than a useful addition to the machinery for direct rule. Mr. Atkins was at pains to emphasise yesterday that "We are certainly not going to cut and run, leaving the citizens of Northern Ireland, the vast majority of whom want nothing more than to get on with their daily lives in peace and quiet, without the services and protection that they deserve and need."

Mr. Callaghan's proposal cannot escape that criticism. It is highly desirable that there should continue to be fresh and constructive thinking on Northern Ireland, especially from someone with such a distinguished record of public service, who has himself in the past had personal responsibility in a British government for the affairs of the province. There may also be some tactical advantage in someone of Mr. Callaghan's standing in Britain calling upon the Government to begin a movement towards the creation of an independent Northern Ireland. It may make Protestant politicians there rather more willing to compromise with the Catholic parties. But there would be other, more disturbing, effects, if the

Government were to act on his advice. He is proposing in substance that, admittedly at the end of a process, having moved step by step, Northern Ireland should be expelled from the United Kingdom whether that was the wish of its people or not. They would as individuals retain the right to British citizenship, which enables Mr. Callaghan to claim that the guarantee that the constitutional position of the province will not be changed without the approval of a majority of the people would not be abandoned but "would be transferred from the territory to the people". One of the rights of British citizenship in the United Kingdom, however, is the right to participate in the constituency where one is living, in electing a member to the House of Commons. Under Mr. Callaghan's scheme that right would ultimately be denied to Northern Irish people who continued to live in the province. This would be a critical deprivation. It would be a different matter if the people of Northern Ireland themselves wished to move towards independence. As David Blake points out on the opposite page, that would still leave Britain with the economic burden of supporting the province, if living standards in the province were not to fall drastically.

Nonetheless, if that were the wish of the Northern Irish people, it would be right for Britain to respond constructively. But for Britain on its own initiative to remove Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom would be unprincipled and would not lead to peace in the province.

UNIVERSITIES UNDER THE KNIFE

There are two components in the University Grants Committee's decisions, given out yesterday, about how to apply the spending cuts that the Government has laid down for universities. First there is the public and mandatory part: the announcement of the size of grant for each university in the coming academic year, with estimates for the two succeeding years. These figures may be open to negotiation, or to revision in the light of future Government policy, but in the last resort what the committee decides on these issues will be so.

Then there is the advisory part, some of it published in yesterday's statement and some in confidential letters to each university, in which the committee explains what cuts in student numbers it believes to be necessary if the grant reductions are not to lead to lower standards, and how it wishes the reductions to be made subject by subject. On these matters the committee has no power to insist. If indulgence over the proposals runs high in coming weeks, as it is likely to, it should not make the mistake of claiming that the state (for the UGC is technically an arm of the state) is making any new encroachment in a formal sense upon academic freedom.

In practice, though, the changes demanded are unprecedented, and it will be a little while before the implications sink in. The Government has reversed a trend of expansion in British higher education which had continued since the Second

World War. Given our economic plight and the Government's policies for managing it, the decision to cut makes sense. But the academic world has no experience of contraction. It will hurt, and coming so suddenly it could well cause unnecessary harm and disorder. It would have been no service to academic freedom for the UGC to have spread the load equally and left the universities to make the best of it alone. Detailed direction of policy from the centre would be clumsy and expensive, but a pattern is needed for each university to react to.

The pattern that emerges from yesterday's announcement appears broadly appropriate to the condition of a country finding it difficult to compete economically. Business studies and technology to go up; social studies and town planning to go down. But there is no hidebound promotion of technology wherever it is found: indeed, four of the seven universities hardest hit are former Colleges of Advanced Technology. Departments of technology are expensive to equip and run at a high standard, and the logic of concentration applies to them strongly.

The arts are to shrink, with concentration of foreign language teaching in fewer and larger departments, while ensuring that the minority languages which tend to be sacrificed when economies are needed do not vanish altogether. Special consideration is also recommended for the interests of research and libraries, both vulnerable to similar pressures.

The importance of promoting continuing education in a rapidly-changing world is understated, however.

The scale of the cuts in some institutions is so great that redundancies may be necessary. The question whether it is possible to make do with a reduced staff is one that will have to be determined by the courts: to legislate retrospectively about existing contracts would be repugnant. In any event, the Government should treat compensation as an item for additional funding, as in the coal and steel industries.

In general, the UGC's guidance to making the best of an unwelcome necessity deserves to be received with respect by universities. It is a pity that the whole of higher education of which the universities are only a small part has no body like it to take an overall view of where cuts should fall. Greater coherence of planning in the whole field would reduce the unavoidably arbitrary aspect of the UGC's role. Planning in this context could seek more effectively to meet the paradox that Britain has to cut higher education because of economic failures, which may well be connected with the fact that fewer young people here than in competing countries go on to gain the skills that an advanced society needs. It cannot be demonstrated that a large university sector, nor even higher education as a whole, make a country more competitive. But in some sense, skills must be a safeguard against unemployment for nations, as they are for individuals.

NEW PIPER, NEW TUNES?

French radio and television have been under close government control for many years. M. Giscard d'Estaing took office with a commitment to liberalize the system and did introduce some changes, but he simply used different methods to exercise his influence, so that by the end of his term of office he not only controlled television and radio, but was beginning to influence the press as well.

Since M. Mitterrand was elected President on May 10 there have been considerable changes. M. Mitterrand and his colleagues, who have been to a great extent ignored in the past, are now frequently on people's screens. There has also been controversy over the fate of the top men and women in the broadcasting media, all of them appointees of M. Giscard. The new government, true to its promise not to conduct a witchhunt, has not dismissed them. But M. Fillard, the Minister of Communications, has brought pressure on them to resign by saying publicly that they did not carry out their obligations properly; and there has been further pressure from journalists' committees in the various organizations, which have demanded a say in both appointments and programming. Some of the Giscard appointees

have resigned, others have held firm.

It is hardly surprising that there should be bitterness over all this, and that those who are now under pressure to resign should claim to be victims of a witchhunt. French radio and television are intensely political organizations, so that when the political pendulum swings as far as it has now done in France there are bound to be repercussions. Some journalists who consider that they were silenced or downgraded for political reasons have seen a chance to assert themselves, or to take revenge. Others, who roed the Giscard line, maintain that they did so unwillingly and are now ready to change their tune. Others again argue that they upheld their professional integrity all along, and will continue to do so.

In all the hubbub, two things seem clear. One is that those people who were the most blatant examples of patronage, and who were responsible for the servile attitude of radio and television towards M. Giscard, can hardly expect to stay on. The other is that the government needs to act firmly to show that it really intends to carry out M. Mitterrand's pledge to introduce a more open and independent broadcasting system, rather than simply using the media for its own ends.

In his statement to the Cabinet on Wednesday, M. Fillard set out the principles that will be incorporated in legislation to be introduced this autumn. They include respect for pluralism and full autonomy for the bodies responsible for radio and television. This is in line with campaign undertakings by the Socialist Party that the heads of the three television channels and of the radio services would no longer be appointed by the President, as under M. Giscard, but by their respective boards, in which the government would be in a minority.

But given the powers which a French President and his government have, more will be needed than new structures. By the appointments it makes and the spirit in which it interprets the law, the government will have to show that it does not intend simply to replace control by M. Giscard's supporters with control by its own. Real change would be in its own interest. M. Giscard's power over broadcasting not only failed to save him from defeat but may even have contributed by provoking the scepticism and hostility which is the familiar public response to government-controlled media in most parts of the world.

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Losing the art of advocacy

From Mr. A. C. Blythton

Sir, In your edition of Wednesday, July 1, on page 3, you carried a law report quoting that of a judgment of Mr. Justice Tudor Evans in the case of *Ausy, Mills, Rogers and Popov v. National Coal Board*.

Comment upon the merits of the case, but the purpose of this letter is to say how much we agree with the conclusion of Mr. Justice Tudor Evans on the issue of refusing to admit expert witness evidence. We hope that the legal profession will not mind us making a comment generally on this issue, but over the years within the whole range of legal practice, we have found the use of professional experts becoming more widespread. The Lord Chancellor should note, we feel, the fact that if an examination of legal costs was to take place, it would be surprising to many people as to the extent to which this practice has developed in court cases.

Mr. Justice Tudor Evans himself would recall that when he started out it was the rule that the barristers involved in the case were to give an explanation of the facts of a case than they do today, whereby most court cases are taken up in cross-examination of witnesses, professional or otherwise. We can only hope that together with our solicitors, taking great pains to build a model of a member's workplace so that they could explain to the judge what exactly occurred.

These days barristers are more inclined to produce the right sort of results, particularly where a poor, unfortunate individual is relying upon experts who give virtually second-hand evidence and whose case turns upon whether his legal advisers have selected the right expert or not.

With the advent of the raising of the county court limits to a much higher figure than is justified, we feel that the time has come for an examination of the whole of the conducting legal cases before the courts. There ought to be more agreed items laid down so that the court does not waste its time on unnecessary fact and we should get back to the role of the judge whereby barristers have to convince judges of the legal correctness of the cases which they are conducting, rather than rely upon expert testimony.

This letter may of course result in some controversy, but we feel that the matter has drifted far enough and a proper appraisal is clearly necessary with a view to seeing what can be done to cut down the vast costs of the whole system. Inflation alone is not responsible for these because we feel that it will be found that experts who are employed command even greater fees than the barristers and solicitors in the worst cases.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. BLYTHTON,
Secretary,
Legal Department,
Transport and General Workers' Union,
Transport House,
Smith Square, SW1,
July 1.

A voice abroad

From the Director-General of the English-Speaking Union

Sir, I was concerned to read of the budget cuts the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has announced for the external services of the BBC. Such cuts will not only directly and adversely affect the BBC but will also diminish Britain's efforts at transmitting its attitudes and values to the rest of the world. The BBC's overseas services present to other people in the world aspects of British culture which help to cast a favourable light on this nation. The English language provides to many the only window through which they can see the world. The BBC's overseas service is a unique course of action indeed.

Every effort should be made to discover any avenues which may lead to sponsorship of the BBC in order to live within the limits of economically poor times. Perhaps industries or trusts could lend financial support; this may not be the most attractive alternative to many people, but it is one worth exploring. It is an important service not only to Britons but also through the external services which are in danger of being suspended, an inexpensive and effective means of communication to people in other parts of the world.

I agree that other economies should be made before serious programmes are forced to suffer. The BBC is an important service not only to Britons but also through the external services which are in danger of being suspended, an inexpensive and effective means of communication to people in other parts of the world.

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Choice of schools

From Mr. D. A. Frith

Sir, On June 11 you published a letter from Mr. Frank Fisher denouncing the right of parents to choose private education for their children and deploring the policy statements which were recently issued by the Labour Party and which were directed towards the abolition of fee-paying schools. I have little doubt that Mr. Fisher was right in believing that there is a wide measure of support for many of the views which he expressed.

But I must say, however, that our concern to protect the independence of education from central state control should be extended beyond this independent sector. In broad terms the maintained sector has tended to live within the tradition of professional independence which characterized the best fee-paying schools. Certainly during the 25 years as headmaster of a maintained school I found my relationship with parents, governors, and local authority. Basically I believe that this was because that relationship was founded upon personal contact with local people whose attitudes and decisions stemmed from their membership of particular and distinctive communities, who felt able to influence the decisions which were made, and in the case of the authority had a degree of autonomy commensurate with the responsibilities which they carried.

Readers who may have read the article by Professor J. P. Stewart in *The Times* of June 12 may agree with him that

Rates burden

From Mr. Frank Othick

Sir, Your Local Government Correspondent's prediction (June 25) that the Government's autumn legislation the main proposal will be an imposed limit on increases in industrial and commercial rates, has a bigger burden on domestic ratepayers.

If, as seems likely, this concession extends to all commercial properties, householders, without the tax relief on rates which is given to commercial ratepayers, will also have the privilege of helping occupiers of offices (in the City of London they account for 84 per cent of the total rateable value of 260m) and do not look threatening in any locality), shops (including such hard-ups as banks, building societies, estate agents and bookshops), hotels, restaurants and public houses, even holiday camps and caravan sites.

Let us hope that this proposal will be intelligently thought through before legislation is drafted.

Yours, etc.
FRANK OTHICK,
93 High Street,
Epsom,
Surrey.

Approaches to inner-city policing

From Mr. J. Rea Price

Sir, The Scarman inquiry throws into relief two contrasting approaches to inner-city policing. There is the home-beat officer, welcomed and accepted in all corners of his patch, combining the local conventions of antiquity to the police, even in Brixton. Then there are the mobile bands of young, inexperienced and apparently ill-equipped men, widely unfamiliar with neighbourhoods into which they are drafted at extreme points of tension. The Commissioner is indeed lucky that these demands are being made on his resources at a time when "Met's" strength is the highest for many years. At least he has been more generously treated by the present Administration than those of us in other public services.

Certainly, the London policeman on foot is now a much more common sight than he (or she) was some years ago. But his policies, seem to be more fluid than they have been for some years. Scarman could well influence the direction things take but which would be a sophisticated riot police equipped to rapidly suppress the symptoms of disruption, or on the other hand, towards a much more determined policy of neighbourhood policing, which hitherto seems to fail against the competing demands of specialist task forces and high-technology policing?

One sympathises with the appalling problem that the Commissioner faces in policing a city as well as a series of neighbourhoods with their own individualities and sensitivities. Even on an ordinary day, I am told, for

example that inner-city Islington may have half its own police deployed on "capital city duties" outside the borough. What chance community policing in this situation?

Perhaps, though, this increase in manpower gives a new margin to play with, and I would plead with the politicians at the Yard to recognize the priority of the home-beat service. Colleagues from education, health and social services at the front line find that where there is a regular and intensive home-beat policing, joint action becomes possible to avert delinquency, family violence and vandalism. But this trust can only develop between our agencies, our communities and a known figure, particularly a policeman whose contribution and personality are able to transcend the stereotypes his uniform otherwise attracts.

Stability of manpower is also important. Over the last year the losses other services have experienced through cuts have to some extent been compensated by a static workforce. Would that the same could be said of the Met, which appears to be a constant merry-go-round, particularly at senior level.

There is, of course, a senior officer in the Yard's Community Relations Division who was there a year ago. Surely in this division above all continuity and consistency are required. Poles alone are not good enough as a memory.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REA PRICE,
Director of Social Services,
London Borough of Islington,
17 Islington Park Street, N1,
June 30.

Trials of Nazi war criminals

From Mr. Martin Kolinsky

Sir, It was most unfortunate that the feature on the Majdanek trial (July 1) conveyed such weariness with war crimes trials. Two years ago, on July 3, 1979, the Bundestag decided to abolish the Statute of Limitations on the prosecution of murder. The debate showed that it was precisely because the Holocaust and the related crimes of mass murder were moral problems beyond the ordinary that prosecutions should continue without time restriction.

However, the Bundestag did not address itself to the question of how the trials should be conducted. It continued to be left to the judiciary as if ordinary procedures could automatically apply to the extraordinary situations. No effort was made to establish a separate procedure, or to monitor the process through the Bundestag, as the forum of the nation and through the federal government. Yet the crimes were organized by a regime in control of the German state, armed forces and police.

Therefore it is not merely criminal individuals who are on trial; what is fundamentally at stake is the way in which this past is integrated with the present in a nation's consciousness.

Although common justice may be beyond reach, lassitude or indifference would represent injustice to the survivors and their families. And beyond that, it would be unfair to those in the Federal Republic who have the moral courage to face the dreadful legacy of their inheritance, and to those everywhere who try to comprehend the human devastation which the trials recall.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN KOLINSKY,
Department of Political Science,
University of Birmingham,
Murdock Tower,
P.O. Box 363,
Birmingham,
July 1.

effective ambassadors abroad. Britain can claim to have no senior official in the Yard's Community Relations Division who was there a year ago. Surely in this division above all continuity and consistency are required. Poles alone are not good enough as a memory.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REA PRICE,
Director of Social Services,
London Borough of Islington,
17 Islington Park Street, N1,
June 30.

West Indians in school

From Mr. James Hutchinson

Sir, While I agree with the drift of Mrs. Best's arguments (June 27) as a schoolmaster I should point out that many misunderstandings arise if a parent fails to recognize the long established convention of report writing. Why does a teacher write, "Jones has a confident attitude and is lively in his approach when he means 'Jones runs wild in class and has a mind like a sewer'?"

There are two reasons. First, the mistaken belief that parents will penetrate the Delphic utterance, second, the responsibility he feels for writing the unadorned truth. What effect on a pupil's work and self-esteem will "a hopeless case" have? Should the teacher perhaps encourage a pupil to write, "I am against a domineering and over-ambitious parent who has unrealistic expectations of a child's ability?"

The answer to Mrs. Best's problem is that the parent should be told that the parent and school: If I know a parent well I can say exactly what I feel; if I have hardly met the parent then I have recourse to the cliché.

Parents must not be overawed by the professionals and teachers must stop hiding behind jargon and patronizing parents. After all we are, or should be, on the same side.

Yours sincerely,
J. S. HUTCHINSON,
3, S. Road, E.S.
June 25.

Church treasure

From Mrs. Joan Connolly

Sir, I have a lot of sympathy for Canon Sharpe (letter, June 27) and his parishioners, the problem of valuable altar silver is faced by many churches. I belong to a relatively modern church which has had most of its silver stolen and we now use sports trophies whose rings have been straightened. They seem much friendlier than any mass-produced objects and I'm sure suitable vessels would be readily offered in many parishes.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN W. CONNOLLY,
16 Beckenham Road,
West Wickham,
Kent.

the present move to establish strict and direct control over local authority spending which in this context means spending on education — may constitute the first real threat of destruction to our liberal tradition of education in the maintained schools. If the Government takes any greater powers to control education, expenditure, it will be able to do so with insensitivity to what this will mean in a wide variety of different local circumstances. They will do so without any sense of direct accountability to those who teach and learn in the country's schools, and to the parents who must use those schools.

Nor must it be supposed, once a local authority has been deprived of the power to live within its own rates to match the perceived needs of the local community, that a subsequent government might restore that power. Any government is reluctant to relinquish the powers which it inherits.

If the performance of maintained schools has given rise to some disappointment, whether justified or not, let nobody conclude that starving them of resources is preventing local people from cutting their own coat from their own cloth. It is likely to do anything but make matters a very great deal worse.

Central control stifles the liveliness of local initiatives and encourages the spread of dull uniformity.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD FRITH,
General Secretary,
Secondary Heads Association,
29 Gordon Square, WC1,
June 30.

Topless in 'The Times'

From Mr. D. J. Owen

Sir, Mr. Robin MacLellan (June 30) should not protest too loudly at your placing the top of his head and shoulders photographs. Does not his own family escutcheon bear a head impaled upon a sword? Surely the unkindest cut of all.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. OWEN,
21 Salisbury Road,
Rednash, Bristol,
June 30.

Closing ranks

From Professor M. R. Alderson

Sir, Could Philip Howard (June 23) be only partly right about a cohort? I understood that once a cohort had been enlisted, there was no replacement of those dying or retiring by new recruits; the cohort thus gradually decreased in size.

Guidance on this point would be welcome as it is in this sense that the word is used in my field of medical statistics. I would hate to continue to make a mucker (or other-wise run the risk of offending

Methodist ministry

From Mr. J. L. Nightingale

Sir, Yours news item of July 1 describes the Rev Christine Jones as Britain's first woman Methodist minister. The Rev Elizabeth Bultride was appointed to the Norwich Circuit by the Primitive Methodist Conference in 1832 and on her death in 1890 the Conference took the opportunity of reminding the Church that "the gifts of the Spirit are without distinction of sex".

Yours truly,
J. LESLIE NIGHTINGALE,
11 Marshall's Road,
Widley,
Widley, Northamptonshire,
July 1.

your book review editor).

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ALDERSON,
11 Redruth House,
Grange Road,
Sutton,
Surrey.

Topless in 'The Times'

From Mr. D. J. Owen

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Yours faithfully,
D. J. OWEN,
21 Salisbury Road,
Rednash, Bristol,
June 30.

Stock Exchange Prices

Lack of interest

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, June 29. Dealings End, July 10. \$ Contango Day, July 13. Settlement Day, July 20.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

[illegible]

Point-to-point
race for
robots, page 19

Business News

THE TIMES July 3 1981

Alvis leaves
the BL
stable, page 19

■ **Stock markets**
FT Index 545.9 down 2.8
FT Gilts 65.51 unchanged

■ **Sterling**
\$ 1.3840 down 190 points
Index 92.1 down 1.0

■ **Dollar**
Index 109.4 down 0.4
DM 2.4080 down 12 pts

■ **Gold**
\$414.50 down \$11

■ **Money**
3 mth sterling 123-125
3 mth Euro \$ 181-181
6 mth Euro \$ 171-171

IN BRIEF

NI raises share offer for Collins

Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International yesterday raised its offer for the non-voting ordinary shares of publisher William Collins Sons (Holdings) by 8 per cent to 163p.

The move follows talks with the Takeover Panel which was believed to be unhappy with the disparity between the price offered for the voting and non-voting stock. Last week, NI increased its offer for the ordinary shares by 12.5 per cent to 225p, but left the "A" share offer unchanged at 150p. The new offer now values Collins at around £25m.

But the Panel has yet to reach a decision on whether the 9.5 per cent stake in Collins, bought by NI from Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press broke the rules of the Takeover Code.

Japanese imports
The British motor industry had been very successful in limiting the level of Japanese car imports to the United Kingdom by voluntary agreement, Mr George Turnbull, chairman of Talbot UK, said yesterday. Without the efforts of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the Japanese would now be taking at least 20 per cent of the British car market as they had in the United States. In 1980 Japanese cars accounted for 11.7 per cent of the British market.

German money target
The West German Federal Bank will aim to keep the annual growth rate of central bank money stock within a 4 to 5.5 per cent band during the rest of this year. At its mid-year review of money supply policy, held in Frankfurt yesterday, the bank's central council agreed that there was no need to change the overall 1981 target which envisaged a 4 to 7 per cent growth between the fourth quarter of 1980 and the final quarter of this year.

Meat jobs to go
The FMC meat group said yesterday that it may be forced to make further redundancies. The company blamed Danish competitors for forcing margins down. Danish bacon exporters cut their wholesale price in Britain by almost 3p a pound yesterday leaving it about 3p a pound lower than a year ago. FMC would not say exactly how many jobs would be lost.

Toyota-Ford talks off
Toyota Motor Company yesterday suspended talks in Tokyo with Ford Motor Company over its production plans in the United States but denied that threats of an Arab boycott of Toyota products was the main reason. Toyota president Eiichi Toyoda said the suspension was temporary.

BL one-day week
More workers at BL's export packing factory at Cowley, Oxford, are to go on a one-day week. Twenty are already on short time and will be joined by another 75 at the end of the month.

Beer output down
Beer production in May fell 9 per cent on an annual comparison to 3.5 million bulk barrels. Bad weather was to blame, said the Brewers' Society. Production over the first five months of this year has dropped 7.5 per cent compared with the same period last year.

France cuts MLR
The Bank of France has reduced its seven-day treasury bill discount rate to 19.75 per cent from 22 per cent. The rate is a key market indicator and effectively represents the central bank's minimum lending rate.

Wall Street lower
The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 959.15, down 8.47 on Wall Street yesterday. The S&P 500 index was 114.252 while the E&S rate was 0.606981.

Cut promised soon in US interest rates

From Frank Vogel, Washington, July 2

Mr David Stockman, United States Director of the Office of Management and Budget, today predicted lower American interest rates and a stronger dollar. He said there will be greater financial market stability and reassured Wall Street by stressing that the administration will achieve its restrained budget deficit targets.

Mr Stockman, who is widely viewed as the most influential of President Reagan's economic advisers, said that the economy is slowing down, inflation is moderating and in coming months interest rates will fall. He noted that there could be money market liquidity squeezes and that these could produce temporary volatility in interest rates and even some short-term increases.

Such conditions are being seen this week. Today both the Chase Manhattan Bank and the First National Bank of Chicago increased their prime lending rates to 20 1/2 per cent from 20 per cent.

The budget director suggested at a press conference that the dollar has advanced in terms of European currencies in recent months mainly because of high American interest rates. He said this phase of dollar appreciation is almost over, but added that a further strengthening of the dollar is likely as confidence increases in the currency because of falling inflation.

Mr Stockman said that this dollar strength, reflecting greater American price stability, is beneficial for all nations, because a stronger American economy clearly assists world economic growth.

He added that the Reagan administration is determined to keep open markets, and maintain free trade and that this week's White House decision to lift restrictions on shoe imports from Asia should be seen as a signal of the President's free trade commitment.

Many traders in financial markets have been fearful that the administration would fail to secure sufficient control of public spending to reduce the budget deficit. Mr Stockman said he would be surprised if the fiscal year's budget deficit did not come close to the administration's forecast of \$55,000m (£30,550m).

The budget chief said that moves by Congress to delay implementation of planned tax cuts from July 1 to October 1 and to reduce the fiscal year's deficit for the coming fiscal year will produce savings to the Treasury of some \$14,000m. These savings will be offset partly by increased spending in some budget areas, but overall the 1982 fiscal year budget deficit should be lower now than the original White House estimate of \$45,000m.

Mr Stockman said that the administration will still have to propose further real cuts in domestic programmes to balance the budget within three years. He believes, however, that it is highly realistic, especially in view of the latest budget-cutting votes by Congress, for the administration to secure a 5 per cent or lower inflation rate by 1984. He added that it will be essential that the Federal Reserve continues its firm policies and slows annual money supply growth to around 3 to 4 per cent.

Substantial aid for pound

By Frances Williams

Figures published yesterday on Britain's official reserves for June suggest that the Bank of England was forced to intervene on a substantial scale during the month to smooth the pound's abrupt fall against the dollar and European currencies. There was an underlying outflow from the reserves of \$388m, the largest drop since October 1979. This compares with an underlying inflow of \$278m in May.

Treasury officials, while as usual cautioning that the underlying outflow reflects a variety of transactions, confirmed that market intervention was substantial. But there has been no

change in the Bank of England's policy of acting to smooth excessive fluctuations rather than influence the level of the pound's exchange rate.

During June, the pound fell nearly 7 per cent against the dollar and almost 4 per cent against the Deutsche Mark, while its effective exchange rate dropped by 12.3 per cent.

At the end of June, the reserves stood at \$25,631m (£13,223m), a drop of \$856m (£442m) over the month, after repayment of \$468m of official foreign borrowings.

The Government repaid ahead of schedule a further \$250m of the \$2,500m Euro-dollar loan raised in 1974.

Record profits for GEC

By Richard Allen

GEC, Britain's biggest employer in the private manufacturing sector, overcame the recession to lift pretax profits by £51m to a record £476m in the year to March 31.

In spite of the strength of sterling, GEC's exports rose last year by almost a fifth to £965m out of a total turnover of £3,462m. The group's end-year export order book was up by a third at £1,209m.

GEC's workforce totalled 157,000 at the end of the period, compared with 153,000 previously.

Scottish & Newcastle, the Edinburgh-based brewer, managed to increase profits from its main beer division despite the recession in the industry. However group profits still fell from £39.1m to £33.1m due to higher interest charges and lower profits from other activities.

The dividend is unchanged at 6.25p gross. Although borrowings have risen again, Mr Peter Balfour, chairman, said there were no plans for a rights issue.

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Memec besieged by investors

By Rosemary Unsworth

More than £250m has been subscribed for the £25m offer for sale of shares of Memec, the electronic component distributor, in which Stock Exchange dealings are expected to start next week.

Charterhouse Japhet, the group's banker, said yesterday that it expected the offer to be at least 50 times oversubscribed.

Last night it was still counting the applications and said that the basis of allocation would be announced today. But it was already clear that the smaller applications would have to go to ballot.

The offer, which represents 35 per cent of the equity, was unusual because the company decided to go for full listing rather than join the unlisted securities market.

The offer price of 140p for the 375 million shares available now looks certain to show a premium on the first day of sales, an outside broker, Scott, Coff, Hancock, is recommending purchases at up to 175p a share earlier in the week.

Memec (Memory and Electronic Components), made pre-tax profits of £4.4m on sales of £7.3m last year.



Builders of tomorrow posed yesterday in London with Sir Michael Edwards, Lord Scanlon and Mr J. M. K. Kendall-Carpenter, headmaster of Wellington School (right), after receiving prizes in The Times engineering essay competition.

Challenge for tomorrow's engineers

By Anne Warden

Britain is the best place in the world to bring about a recovery in exports, Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, told winners of The Times Engineering Essay Competition yesterday.

The winners are all sixth formers of university students. One of Britain's problems is that salesmen travel, but engineers do not, he said. Britain exports 32 per cent of its gross national product, a much higher proportion than many other countries.

But he stressed their talent was not enough to prop up industry in the future. Tomorrow's engineers will be concerned with wider issues, he said. However, the difference of attitude over the last seven

years has been dramatic, he added. Sir Michael also said that women "have a hell of a big contribution to make" to engineering.

Lord Scanlon, chairman of the Engineering Industry Training Board, compared his presence at the Engineering Employers' Federation to a return "to the gladiatorial arena". He said the need for a wealth-producing base in the United Kingdom was self-evident. He said he and the other competition judges found the students' essays interesting and enlightening.

The competition was sponsored by The Times and the Engineering Careers Informa-

tion Service, which was formed five years ago to advise young people about careers in engineering. In this first year of the competition, 467 students submitted essays. Of these, 399 were from schools or colleges of education, and 68 were from universities or polytechnics. They were written at a time when students were already busy preparing for examinations.

There were two top prizes of £500, one for a first former and one for a university student. Mark Rothery of Wellington School, Somerset, won the schools prize, and Andrew Bud of Christ's College, Cambridge, took the university prize. The subject of the essays was

"What I expect engineers to contribute in the next 30 years to our nation's prosperity". Sir Michael presented prizes to the 17 best essayists at the headquarters of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Pictured (left to right, back row) are: Richard Beech (Gloucester College of Arts and Technology, Cheltenham); Michael Potts (Haberders' Aske's Boys' School, Elstree, Herts); Alexander Stephen (Glasgow University); Bud (Christ's College, Cambridge, graduate winner); Peter Mason (Bishops Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield); Sonia Bartoluzzi (Haberders' Aske's School for Girls, Elstree, Herts); Katherine Williams

(Polytechnic of the South Bank, London); Ruth Jolley (Loughborough High School for Girls, Loughborough).

(Front row): John Webber (Worthing College of Technology, Worthing); Eric Benedict (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London); Colin Wright (Harefield County High School, Wilmslow); Stewart Mansfield (Polytechnic of the South Bank, London); Frank Benjamin (Churchill College, Cambridge); Martin King (Polytechnic of the South Bank, London); Mark Rothery (Wellington School, Somerset, sixth-form winner); Mr J. M. Kendall-Carpenter, headmaster, Wellington School (winning school).

BL sells Alvis and its tanks in £27m deal

By Rupert Morris

BL announced yesterday that it was to sell Alvis, its former Coventry-based subsidiary, to United Scientific Holdings for £27m.

Alvis, once a car manufacturer, now concentrates mainly on making various versions of the Scorpion tank, for sale to the Ministry of Defence and for export to 11 other countries.

The sale is in line with the Government's demilitarisation programme, and BL's intention of concentrating on its mainstream activities of producing cars, trucks and buses.

The deal is a coup for USH, and more or less doubles its size. It best several competitors for Alvis, and the purchase has been approved both by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and by the Ministry of Defence. The money will be raised by a rights issue, and completion is expected in September. USH share dealings

were suspended yesterday. The Alvis works force of 1,800 is equivalent to the total workforce of USH, which has two factories at Tamworth, Somerset, one at Belvedere, Kent, and a headquarters in London, as well as factories in Dallas and Chicago elsewhere in the United States and in Singapore.

Mr Peter Levene, USH managing director, who will become chairman of Alvis, said the present workforce would not be affected. "We do not intend to make any significant changes," he said. Mr Levene, who had approached Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, in February, said Alvis would have dramatically improved export opportunities as a result of the deal. Under BL, Alvis had concentrated on home orders, but now it would be "able to take advantage of USH's international contacts."

"Alvis will be the jewel in our crown," said Mr Levene. Alvis produced about 350 vehicles last year. Its turnover was £50,106,000, and net pretax profits were £6,971,000, more than double the previous year's.

Nuclear financing review

By Rupert Morris

A review of the financial structure of the National Nuclear Corporation was announced yesterday by Mr Norman L. Ingham, Secretary of State for Energy. It could involve some injection of money by the Government.

The move is a response to the complaints of the Central Electricity Generating Board that the NNC is undercapitalised and that it is therefore unable to take on the risks involved in building nuclear power stations.

It is also evidence of a new determination in the Government to accelerate the nuclear programme. On Tuesday, it

announced the appointment of Mr Frank Gibb to succeed Mr Denis Rooney as NNC chairman, and set up a task force under Dr Walter Marshall to expedite a design study on the pressurised water reactor.

Mr Levene was replying to a parliamentary question said: "I have agreed with the corporation and the generating boards that there should be a review of how the National Nuclear Corporation's role in relation to the major financial risks involved in nuclear power station construction could be strengthened."

"The views of all the NNC shareholders will be sought in the course of this exercise."

Publishing group joins the video revolution

Pearson seeks gold from the silver screen

By David Hewson

Pearson Longman, the media empire which contributes reading matter to television homes, yesterday took the plunge and joined the video revolution.

Mr James Lee, Pearson's chief executive, forecast that within five years the group would have as much capital employed in making films and television programmes as in each of its four divisions—the Financial Times group, Westminster Press, Penguin Books, and Longman the publishers.

A few days after announcing its intention to buy a 25 per cent stake in Yorkshire Television, it is to launch Goldencrest Films and Television, a films and video company, to handle the expansion of the group's business.

It has recruited Mr Mike Wooller, the distinguished pro-

gramme maker who is a former chairman of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and at present head of documentaries at Thames Television, to run GFT's television operations.

A number of leading independent producers, including Mr David Putnam, whose films include *Chariots of Fire* and *Midnight Express*, are also expected to join the company. One of the new company's first projects is likely to be a television serial of *The Far Pavilions*, the bestselling paperback which was one of Penguin's successes during a lean period in publishing two years ago.

Goldencrest is also expected to make a series of educational programmes using its vast library of titles acquired through Penguin and Longman.

Mr Lee, who will be chairman of the new company, said yesterday that he would introduce a series of programme titles and officers for it in September.

"We feel that over the decade that is coming there is going to be an enormous growth in demand for high quality film and television programmes. It is rather ironic in some ways, because the 1970s have not been particularly good for film and television," he said.

Pearson already has some experience of film financing. It is part owner, with the National Coal Board Pension Fund, Elected House and others, of Goldcrest Films International, which has been involved in film production and is a leading backer of Sir Richard Attenborough's film on the life of Gandhi. The

new company will own around 40 per cent of GFT.

Mr Lee said that in addition, Pearson would establish a fund of £5m for deficit financing of television programmes, and, in conjunction with outside investors, create a further two pools of finance for programme production. If its targets were met, it would have between £25m and £30m under its control for financing film and television productions.

Although a number of small-scale, independent production companies have been formed with the main intention of producing for Channel 4, the new commercial channel, Pearson's is the first large-scale involvement of a big British company outside the entertainment field in producing material for what is expected to be one of the fastest growing markets

Italy given ultimatum over EEC steel pact

From Peter Norman, Brussels, July 2

Italy has so far failed to approve formally the agreement setting out the conditions under which the European steel industry is to operate.

The Government in Rome failed to meet yesterday's deadline for giving written agreement to the pact worked out by EEC industry ministers in Luxembourg a week ago.

At a meeting of representatives of the 10 member states in Brussels today, Italy was given until 2 p.m. tomorrow to approve the deal.

Italy is believed to be dissatisfied with some aspects of the social part of the agreement, which calls upon member states to help pay for short-time working and early retirement for steelworkers in Britain, France and Belgium.

But it was unclear today whether the Italians' objections

are strong enough to jeopardize the pact or whether the delay results from the recent change of government in Rome.

The European Commission today ordered steelworks in the EEC to cut back sharply the output of these products still subject to mandatory quotas in the third quarter of this year.

The Commission called for a 27 per cent cut in the production of hot strip more than three millimetres thick, a 28 per cent cut in cold and hot strip of less than three millimetres, a 17 per cent production cut for galvanised strip and a 30 per cent cut in output of reinforcing bars and merchant bars. No production cut was ordered for plated sheet other than galvanised strip. Deliveries to the internal EEC market of the thicker hot strip are to be cut by 31 per cent.

Blundell-Permoglaze

Holdings p.l.c.

Interim Statement

	Half Year (unaudited)	Full Year
	30.4.81	31.10.80
	£'000	£'000
Sales	10,690	23,703
Profit before Tax	313	1,840
Earnings per		
Ordinary Share	2.2p	6.3p
Dividend per		
Ordinary Share	1.60p	4.80p



Points from the Statement
by the Chairman,
Robert White:

* The continuing recession has had its inevitable effect on our interim results.

* Exports have recovered well and are exceeding expectations.

* Results of second half-year expected to be similar to corresponding period last year.

* Continuing strong liquid position.

* Acquisition of Federated Paints Limited announced.

* Interim dividend maintained at 1.60p per share.

BLUNDELL-PERMOGLAZE

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A group of companies concerned with the manufacture of building paints and industrial finishes.
York House, 37 Queen Square, London WC1N 3BL

PRICE CHANGES

Rises			
Dunbar Grp	25p to 525p	Ranger Oil	18p to 625p
Elmhurst Gold	8p to 138p	Sangers	6p to 69p
Haden	18p to 153p	Sun Alliance	22p to 918p
Lasmo	13p to 557p	Union Discount	15p to 488p
Martevale Con	7p to 114p	Western Areas	11p to 204p
Falls			
Amber Day	11p to 26p	K Collins	1p to 15p
As Leisure	5p to 116p	Dowdy Grp	8p to 297p
As News	7p to 231p	Gas & Oil Acc	5p to 450p
S & W Beristord	4p to 126p	J Salisbury	12p to 422p
Castlefield	15p to 455p	AG Stanley	3p to 62p

Japan urged to reduce trade curbs

KLEINWORT, BENSON LIMITED.
20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB
and from
ROWE & PITMAN,
City Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1JA

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

GEC's armour plating

GEC's imperious glide through the worst recessionary conditions still shows no signs of faltering. Full-year profits up 15 per cent at £476m were at the very top of market expectations and encouraged a rise of 5p to 743p in spite of disappointment that a long-hoped-for share-split had failed to materialize. Of course, stripping out net interest and investment income on the group's famous cash board—£69m against £33m previously—gives a more sober growth rate of under 7 per cent. But then cash management has always been one of GEC's greatest strengths.

Last year was not without its problems, the consumer products division turned in profits £8m down at £13m, while components, cable and wire managed only a £4m increase to £39m, in spite of the inclusion of Avery's, whose results fell far short of the £14m, prior to the takeover. But the main powerhouse, electronics and telecommunications, lifted profits £25m to £160m, while power engineering lifted its contribution a third to £61m. More surprisingly, the industrial division, exposed more than most of GEC's activities to the general economic malaise, held its profits down to 121 per cent at £42m, thanks chiefly to a strong performance in diesels, where management read the outlook correctly and made the right capacity adjustments.

GEC shares now sell on a p/e ratio fully-taxed of around 18, current cost earnings are strong and the yield is 2 per cent, a 24 per cent dividend increase, a demanding rating but not one likely to attract profit-takers. The order book is every bit as strong as the GEC balance sheet with exports alone up a third at £1,209m, even before the £550m Hongkong power station contract announced last month. Meanwhile, even after outgoings of £85m on United States acquisitions, the cash board has risen £62m to £661m, although £200m of this total represents customer advances and £120m could flow out next year on redemption of the capital notes issued during the days of dividend restraint.

There is still potentially one grey cloud on the horizon in the shape of the Government's pending decision on whether or not to back Marconi's Stingsray heavy torpedo project in the face of an American alternative. But such is GEC's overall strength, that the share rating could ride even disappointment on this front with equanimity.

Shareholders of NCC Energy might be slightly jet-lagged by the progress of their shares since Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey bought in and took over two years ago. The price has jumped from an equivalent of 121p to 152p before closing unchanged yesterday at 130p on the group's annual results to last March. They might be less excited on the group's record pretax loss of £2.1m on a turnover of £37.6m. But the pill is sweetened by an effective 25 per cent rise in the total dividend to a gross 1.92p, paid once again from extraordinary share-dealing profits—this time the £7m on disposal of Week's shares. Next year, Mr Lacey admits there will be no such profits, but by then the group hopes to be part of a much bigger American-based group, Simplicity, giving the merged group assets of £125m and the promise of cash-flow from NCC oil wells.

Plainly, the message is to ignore the present and look to the horizon of profits from base metals and oil. Meanwhile, NCC shareholders vote in three months on the Simplicity deal. The difficulty in valuing NCC and then taking account of Simplicity warrants which have not yet been issued, as well as taking a view on sterling will mean that shareholders will have to put their faith in Mr Lacey's entrepreneurial talents.

Scottish & Newcastle

The financing burden

On the surface, Scottish & Newcastle has turned in another dull set of results. Pretax profits are £6m lower at £33m—less than four years ago—and although earnings per share were maintained largely thanks to the £4m tax credit acquired with the EMI hotels, the shares reacted with a 2½p fall to 65p, to yield 9.6 per cent on an unchanged dividend.

The silver lining behind this is the success of beer wholesaling in the face of falling national beer sales. For, despite a strike costing over £1m and its exposure to high

unemployment areas, S & N pushed up beer wholesaling profits from £29m to £36m at the operating level. The work put into raising production efficiency and improving beer distribution, together with the price rises of the past year, must take most of the credit for this. The group has also benefited from improving its larger range and volume growth here has helped to keep the drop in beer volume to less than the national average.

Elsewhere, hotels, tied houses and the wines and spirits side all made less, but group operating profits were still ahead and the real damage has come from the jump in interest payable from £9.9m to £17m. Nearly £3m of this rise related to the £23m hotels acquisition, but there was still an underlying cash outflow of £17m. So net debt of £152m is now equal to half of shareholders' funds. The real problem, though, is the level which income gearing has now reached—and any relief from lower interest rates may still be some way off.

S & N has gone a long way to sorting out its historic problems on the beer side and improving the inadequate return on assets, but now the economic climate and state of the beer market may prevent much further progress for the moment, and, although the hotels side should do better this year, group profits may be little changed. For the time being, then, the shares rest on the above-average yield.

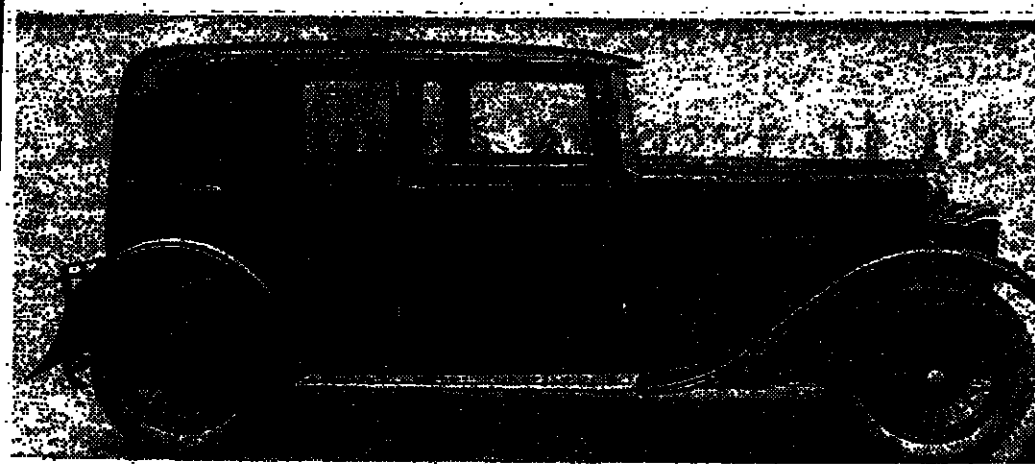
United Scientific Military adventure

BL's sale of its Alvis military vehicle subsidiary is a further indication of the group's determination to get back to the basics of car, truck and bus manufacture, but, in strictly financial terms, the £27m it will raise is neither here nor there in the context of losses running at an annual rate of over £500m. For the purchaser, United Scientific, the deal marks a significant shift of emphasis about which there were mixed feelings yesterday.

United Scientific has the sort of record to make any company chairman envious. Profits and net assets have jumped more than tenfold since 1974 and the latest return on shareholders' equity was a dreamy 31 per cent, based on high value-added component production for military optical equipment. The Alvis acquisition more than doubles the size of the company and takes it into the very different area of building military vehicles, where United Scientific will find it hard to achieve the same return on capital employed. In addition, the cycle for military vehicles is rather different to its existing business and while demand looks promising at the moment the outlook further ahead to 1983 looks distinctly cloudier.

So United Scientific will have to weather some dilution in the quality of its earnings and very probably in earnings themselves with last year's Alvis earnings of £7m exceptional if the purchase is to be funded mainly from a rights issue. But the group has plenty of leeway to take more debt on board with net cash of £1m in the last balance sheet. For perspective the £27m acquisition compares with a market capitalization of £85m at yesterday's suspension price of 447p and the record on acquisitions is good enough to suggest the group can digest Alvis comfortably.

The dismissal of the William Press tax case can hardly put the directors in a mood to consider the widely anticipated bid proposals, but the shares have sped up from 65p to 78p in a week. At 65p, the shares were cheap, now on fundamentals they look no more than fair value and a market capitalization of £47m will score off smaller predators. Press is lucky: as a hybrid of construction and engineering to be in process plant, with a large North Sea business and a second-half recovery last year had 1980 pretax profits up to £8.2m from £6.6m. At the top of the last boom, in 1978, they were £12.7m. Press will probably report between £9m and £10m this year, but hopes of returning to 1978 levels next year depend on a general upturn in business which has yet to start. At 78p, the shares yield a prospective 5.7 per cent and sell at around 10.5 times earnings which put them alongside other contracting and engineering companies.



A prewar Alvis 12/50 hp four-door saloon and a Scorpion light tank which took shape on the drawing board in 1967.

The Alvis military vehicle company is being sold. Edward Townsend reports Another famous name leaves BL's stable

Sir Keith Joseph's battered reputation got a small boost yesterday, when BL announced the sale of its profitable Alvis military vehicle company in Coventry.

The sale will pump another £27m into BL's depleted coffers, bringing the total amount raised by the company's disposals this year to £52m. It will also help to vindicate the secretary of State for Industry's decision to recommend, to his Cabinet colleagues earlier this year, that the group was worthy of a further injection of public money totalling £90m over the next two years.

Under BL activities judged by the company's board to be peripheral to the mainstream car and commercial vehicle operations have been taking place for the last two years and the sale has raised £75m.

Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, has told Sir Keith and other ministers that unless the group concentrates on the mainstream car and commercial vehicle businesses, the chances of Britain maintaining an indigenous car industry and holding its own in the competitive European market are negligible.

Although there were no specific conditions applied to

the granting of the £90m of additional aid which brought the total amount of public money given to the company since 1975 to £2,065m—Sir Keith made clear to the BL directors that he expected BL to contribute to its funding needs from internal sources including disposal of commercial assets where this made commercial sense.

During the next two years it is estimated that BL will have to raise at least £33m in addition to the £90m of state support and with losses continuing on Sir Michael's forecast, until 1982, it is clear that there will be little in the way of retained earnings to finance the additional amount.

Sir Michael is aware that unless it can be shown that BL's stabilising operation includes raising significant amounts of capital as well as de-stemming and increasing productivity he may not be able to retain the confidence of the company's private sector bankers.

The company's 1980 corporate plan envisaged raising £50m from sales of assets, £15m in 1980 and £35m in 1981. Despite the onset of the recession, the 1980 disposals brought in a total of £27m, the main sale being the major part of the

AEC truck factory at Southall in West London to a property company for about £10m.

The 1981 corporate plan increased the estimated proceeds from disposals to £70m spread over the next three years. The plans said: "The increase in mainly accounted for by the identification of further assets for disposal."

Given that with the Alvis sale the funds gleaned this year are only £18m short of the target, the company is again in a good position to exceed its expectations.

Its biggest hope must rest with the sale of the big Rover plant at Solihull which employs 3,000 and is to close next April. Of the £75m already realized this year, £14m has come from two significant sales. Prestcold, BL's former commercial refrigeration business, was sold for £9m to Suter Electrical, the Lancashire-based company in which Mr David Abel, previously managing director of Leyland Vehicles, is a major shareholder.

Another £5m was raised from the sale of the former MG sports car factory at Abingdon. Question marks must now hang over BL's two remaining big businesses which are not part of the mainstream activity:

Coventry Climax and Aveling Barford, both of which have been struggling to regain profitability in the face of declining demand.

The former, an old established forklift truck manufacturer, is attempting with the aid of what are called "aggressive marketing initiatives" to cope with the most depressed period in the history of the forklift truck industry. Levels of new business last year were 50 per cent less than in 1979.

Aveling Barford, which employs about 1,400 at its Lincolnshire plant producing off-road construction vehicles, has also been making losses but rationalization, including the disposal of its Australian operation, has

been struggling to regain profitability in the face of declining demand.

The disposal of Alvis marks the departure from the BL stable of another famous name. Alvis began in 1919 with the design and development of high performance sports cars and from the many innovations attributed to the Alvis marque came the company's first air-cooled aero engine in 1936.

After the last war, Alvis was commissioned by the Ministry of Defence to design and develop the Saladin armoured car, a contract which has led the company deeply into production of military hardware.

Total output of the Saladin and its derivatives, the Saracen, Salamander and Stalwart, was 4,282 vehicles of which many remain in service.

In 1967, Alvis won a new MoD contract for the development of a tracked reconnaissance vehicle, later known as the Scorpion and dubbed "the sports car tank" because of its Jaguar engine. In the same year, production of Alvis cars ceased.

Last month, Alvis revealed its latest vehicle, the Stormer, a tracked armoured personnel carrier for up to 12 men.

BL DISPOSALS — 1981

Disposal	£m
Prestcold	9
MG factory, Abingdon	5
Aveling Barford, Australia	6
Car parts depot, Canada	1
Sharnholding in DOMI car distributors, Denmark	1
Remainder of AEC truck plant, Southall, London	1
Midlandways (mostly property) sales	25
Alvis (sales to be completed in September)	27
	52

Technology

A point-to-point race for robots

Successful family group — the air-driven robot arm with its microcomputer and hand-held keyboard.

there was cheap but restricted ability", Dr Drazan says. "Our target is to produce a reasonably priced robot with great flexibility." By which he means that such a robot had to be capable of being taught new jobs as soon as the demand arose within a particular industry.

With two colleagues at the university, Dr Michael Jeffery and Dr David Bailey, Dr Drazan went for simplicity of mechanical design. This was not only because the microcomputer was capable of juggling the mathematics required but because the simpler the design, the more reliable the equipment.

The computer allowed them to shift much of the complexity of robot operations from the hardware to the software. They were able to develop control strategies sufficiently precise to build a robot powered by compressed air and using motors originally designed for opening and closing the doors of buses.

Bigger, more expensive robots are driven by hydraulics and

use a complex series of servo mechanisms—valves which are gradually opened and closed to allow the accurate flow of the fluid.

Dr Drazan opted for the much simpler on-off valves which operate either fully open or fully closed. This made the robot more difficult to control in the development stages—a problem which was overcome by creating new and sophisticated programmes which transfer the complexity of operation from the hardware (the arm and hand) to the computer (the robot's problem-solving "brain").

Eventually the Surrey team achieved at least 85 per cent of the applications of the more expensive machines; the cost

of the valve used by the Drazan team is about £20 compared with £600 in the big robots. The new machine is a point-to-point robot and it is not only able to undertake simple movements but it is also capable of carrying out additional tasks.

The basic unit costs about £12,500 compared with around £25,000 for a continuous path model, which, for instance, is the type used for paint spraying operations. It has a good power to weight ratio being able to deliver a lot of muscle from lightweight apparatus. The arm swings through an arc of about 1 metre and because the motor is placed at the joints of the limb, there is no need for gears. The machine is taught each

new job rather like a newly blind person being rehabilitated. It is taken by the hand and shown the job. As each teaching operation is carried out, the robot's memory is updated with a hand-held keyboard which is the size of a pocket calculator.

Following the teaching lesson it can get down to work until it is required elsewhere. Each new job is passed into the memory.

"Its versatility was demonstrated by a request Dr Drazan received from a company which wanted a machine to pick up components and place them in a given spot.

The firm's representative was told that he needed only the simple pick-and-place robot. He was back a short while later saying: "What I really wanted was a machine that can pick up a component, hold it to a trimming machine and then put it down." The Surrey robot could cope with both.

It is being made and marketed by Pendar Technical Associates which has named it the Pendar. Pendar has licence agreement with the university and the impetus to move into the next generation of robots.

"The focus on most robots", Dr Drazan says, "is on the shoulder. But you don't carry out precise operations with the shoulders—that is why we are concentrating on the hand. We think we can translate this more complex use of robots through a greater use of sensors in the hand parts". The emphasis will be on simplicity of design.

Peter Brock

Business Diary: Advertising Ann and Cinema Verity

What on earth is the media to do for a token woman now that Ann Burdus is off to New York?

Miss Burdus, the chairman of the British end of the American advertising agency McCann-Erickson is to become director of strategic planning and development with McCann's parent company, Interpublic. She is succeeded by a man, Jerry Shively.

Newspapers, magazines, radio and television will now have to do some strategic planning of their own if they are to develop a replacement for Ann Burdus as the first woman to ring when they are planning knee jerk items on How Top Women in Business Stay Warm, Feminine and Genuine.

Attractive, successful and with an office in central London convenient for photographers, Miss Burdus was a find indeed. But now she is leaving, the media must have such a

character, no question about it. All we need ask is "Who?"

"Verity Lambert", answers Suzanne Lawrence, to whom I cravenly put the question, wishing to keep out of any arguments about the matter with ladies who objected to my naming or not naming them.

Suzanne Lawrence is the editor of the magazine *Personnel Management*, and Miss Lambert the attractive, successful and central London-situated chief executive of the Thames TV subsidiary Euston Films.

"The thing about Verity Lambert," says Miss Lawrence, "is that she's also a woman feminist would approve of". She's done some good stuff for women, such as the *Shoulder To Shoulder* series.

This was a trilogy on the suffragette movement which Miss Lambert produced for BBC2, and which is obviously remembered with fondness even though it is now seven years since it was shown.

Miss Lambert was surprised but suitably demure when I broke to her yesterday the news of her Token Woman of the Year nomination by Miss Lawrence.

"I don't really think I'm in the same league as Ann," she told me. "She's done really well, and while I'm flattered, I feel I have a bit of the way to go."

Euston, Miss Lambert tells me, is working on a new series based upon *The Flame Trees of Tika*, a dramatization of Elspeth Huxley's reminiscences of her Kenya childhood.

This may open up a career to another lady who a generation



Photograph by Malcolm Clarke
Euston Films' Verity Lambert in London yesterday.

hence will be portrayed as warm, feminine and genuine—whoever is "discovered" to play Miss Huxley when young.

Made to measure

Ralph Halpern did not quite have his facts right when he went to work for the Peter Robinson menswear chain 20 years ago.

"My idea," he said yesterday, "was to join a small company badly in need of good management and somewhere I could move quickly."

He did not know that Peter Robinson, however it may have suited his requirements in other respects, was part of the vast Burton's group. Halpern seems to have clued up since then, next month he succeeds Cyril

Spencer on the latter's retirement from the chair of Burton. Halpern is already chief executive. Spencer, 57, will remain a director.

Halpern, 42, shot up through the ranks. He helped found the "Top Shop" chain and became its first chief executive. In 1976 he became chief executive of Peter Robinson and subsequently in 1977, chief executive of the Burton menswear chain.

Messages from afar arriving at the BBC highlight one aspect of the proposed foreign service cuts that so far has been overlooked—one that will do no good for the British exports.

The Foreign Office says film could be saved by closing down BBC Radio's transcription services. This is the department which sends out tapes to be played by local stations to about 100 countries around the world, such as the United States and Australia, where listeners do not often tune into the short-wave and thus miss the BBC World Service.

Chris Bell, the controller of administration, External Broadcasting at the BBC, tells me that the tapes feature specially-made programmes such as *Date-line* and the *International Money Programme* as well as others on science and agriculture that often publicize British products.

The FO says film could be saved by axing the service, which is what will happen next year unless somebody can persuade Mrs Thatcher otherwise.

Among the protests reaching the BBC is one from Keith

Mackrell, the deputy general manager of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

Mackrell, 57, says: "We regard loss of the material as a serious 'inroad' into our own output."

Obviously overseas stations no more relish losing a source of cheap programmes than BBC men and women savour the loss of about 90 jobs.

The ironic thing, however, is that of the 80 countries which send out tapes in this way Britain and the BBC is the only one to charge for them. The film "savings" would be on the deficit between the BBC's costs and what overseas countries, many of them even poorer than ours, can afford.

And one reason for the Foreign Office's proposal to terminate foreign language broadcasting to seven countries was because short-wave programmes are often inaudible: now, says the BBC's Bell, the FO wants to drop a service providing hundreds of millions of potential customers for British goods with British programmes whose audibility is of "immaculate studio quality".

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board was at yesterday's launch in London of the *Institute of Industrial Archaeology*, standing amid an array of heating appliances in the showrooms of the Glasgow group, Sir Derek turned to Lord Briggs and said: "I am delighted, Asa, that you should be leaning against a solid fuel boiler". Clearly, he is no fossil when it comes to selling.

Ross Davies



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Completed applications must be returned by October 31st 1981.



McCann-Erickson's Ann Burdus.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

GEC results fail to inspire equities

Although at the upper end of expectations GEC's full-year figures failed to lift the market yesterday. They did not do much for the group's own shares either. In spite of the rise in pre-tax profits from £416m to £476m and the increased dividend, the shares could muster only a 5p gain to 745p. Dealers blamed part of the lack of follow-through on the recent strong performance of the shares when speculators were buying in ahead of the figures.

Elsewhere in equities, most of the market's attention appeared to be firmly focused on the men's semi-finals at Wimbledon, and the first day of the second Test.

The Chancellor's mini-budget held few surprises, although the 3p increase on a packet of cigarettes and the increase in betting levy produced a mark-down among leisure and tobacco interests. Ladbroke's fell 3p to 164p. Associated Leisure fell 1p to 115p. Cope fell 1p to 141p and Granada Metropolitan 1p to 215p, while in tobacco, Imperial Group shed 1p to 71p and Rothmans International 8p to 415p.

Government securities also made a hesitant start with losses of up to 1/2p sterling continued to slide and as suggestions of higher United Kingdom interest rates again

begin to circulate. However, a further opening on Wall Street led to a recovery, and with the extra aid of some "bear" closing produced a few small gains in "longs". The final picture, in "longs", showed most prices generally unchanged on the day, although in "shorts" rises of 1/2p were not uncommon.

Leading industrials spent another quiet session with prices displaying a mixed appearance at the end. Bowater managed to produce a small rise of 3p to 275p along with Dunlop, 1p dearer at 83p, but Tubes fell 4p to 150p, Hawker Siddeley 2p to 344p and GKN 1p to 147p. Elsewhere, ICI on 278p, Beecham on 269p, Unilever on 588p, Pisons on 146p and British Aerospace on 232p all ended the day unchanged.

In drinks the profits short-fall wiped 24p from Scottish & Newcastle at 65p, with Distillers a strong market, up 6p to 232p, ahead of figures later

this month. Amalgamated Distillers Products, however, was suspended at 85p pending an announcement, after opening at 77p.

The market greeted news of United Scientific's £27m acquisition of Alvis from BL with a hint of caution, but with the shares suspended 1p lower to 445p.

Analysts have been doing some quick sums on Glaxo, whose year-end on June 30 coincided with the sharp fall in the value of sterling. This is expected to benefit the group by up to £4m when the currency sums are worked out. The shares rose 2p to 368p yesterday.

at 447p the sellers will have to wait until today before making their feelings known.

Another casualty was Lin-croft Kilgour, suspended 2p higher at 34p with market gossip pointing to the sale of some sizeable assets.

Foods had British Sugar

unchanged at 331p after its expensive victory over the unwelcome attentions of S. & W. Beckford, down 8p to 126p. J. Sainsbury hit profit-taking over its recent encouraging statement, sliding 12p to 422p, and Avana lost another 5p to 288p, still disappointed by Wednesday's trading news.

Stores also came on offer after their recent strong rally with GUS "A" slipping 3p to 445p, Mothercare 3p to 204p, and Curry's 7p to 196p. British Home Stores gave up 5p to 149p after its chairman's warning on current trading prospects. Courts (Furnishers) "A" resisted the trend, continuing to find support from recent figures, and added 7p to 87p.

Electricals gained comfort from the GEC figures with nervous selling ahead of the announcement leaving shares lower at the close. Karcil dipped 4p to 422p, Ferranti 5p to 580p, BICC 3p to 364p and

Thorn-EMI 4p to 396p. Wednesday's trading news was also responsible for 7p off Granada at 239p.

On the bid front, Wm Collins hardened 3p to 233p and the "A" 12p to 168p amid suggestions of an improved bid from News International today. Haden's German acquisition meant an 18p increase at 193p and advertising Satchi and Satchi advanced 8p to 326p, still on the back of its recent acquisition of Dorlands which made it the largest ad agency in Europe. But the Monopolies Commission's recommendation to disband the poster consortium wiped 1p from Mills & Allen at 458p.

News that the directors of Wm Press had been cleared of fraud charges added 2p to the shares at 78p while speculative buying was good for 5p on Senger at 63p, 2p on Ellis & Goldstein at 291p and 25p on Dumar at 525p.

Equity turnover on July 1 was £104.434m (15,025 bargains). Active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph were GEC, Commercial Union, RTZ, Scottish & Newcastle and Conoco.

Trade options: Business remained at a low ebb in line with the rest of the market with 1,447 contracts recorded. Commercial Union was active on 417 amid down raid hopes. Additional options saw calls in FNFC at 31p, Charterhall at 59p, John Finlay at 15p and ADP at 9p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Div	Pay	Year's
ICI	10.69 (10.79)	0.31 (0.33)	1.5 (1.6)	2/7	(4.8)
Blundell-Permagel	3.1 (3.7)	0.18 (0.36)	1.5 (3)	5/11	2.25 (2.0)
Centrosil	16.4 (14.5)	2.76 (2.16)	3.3 (2.8)	10/1	5.19 (4.51)
Signet	—	4.6 (4.15)	6.7 (5.2)	1/10	10.25 (8.25)
GEC	—	2.1 (0.1)	3.4 (0.32)	1.0 (0.7)	1.75 (1.43)
NCC Energy	27.6 (26.5)	3.1 (2.8)	10.1 (10.1)	2/8	(7.0)
Scott & Newcastle	6.86 (7.54)	0.11 (0.77)	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * Net revenue; † Loss; ‡ Adjusted for scrip issue.

UBM buys US retail chain

By Rosemary Unsworth



Mr. Michael Phillips, chairman of UBM.

UBM, Britain's second largest builders' merchant group, has paid \$4.4m (£4.5m) for its first American acquisition.

The group, headed by Mr. Michael Phillips, is buying 51 per cent of Neiman-Reed, a Californian retail chain selling home and garden improvement products. The 13-store chain, which is a private company, is based near Los Angeles. It also distributes softwood lumber to large industrial users throughout southern California. Retail sales account for 90 per cent of the company's total sales of \$64m.

Mr. William Oley, UBM's finance director, said that the group had been looking for developments in the past two years to reduce its dependence on the United Kingdom building industry. "We wanted a business that we knew something about and the United States fitted the bill because of the common language and business philosophy."

UBM has made smaller Middle East acquisitions in the past and the Neiman-Reed purchase is its second venture this year. It recently paid £12m for a scaffolding company in East Anglia.

The consideration will be paid through a 9 per cent

promissory note, redeemable at par a year after completion, which is subject to an unqualified audit report. In addition, UBM has an option to purchase the remaining 49 per cent of the company on the basis of its performance. The purchase price of the East Anglia acquisition will take UBM's gearing from 9 per cent at the year-end to about 20 per cent by the end of the current year.

UBM's share of the assets is \$2.8m, which under the first-in-first-out system used by UBM rises to \$3.7m. Pre-tax profits for the year to February 28 were \$687,000.

UBM plans to use the acquisition for further expansion, including an increased number of Neiman-Reed stores. The company's founders, Mr. Robert Neiman and Mr. Robert Reed, will continue to manage it for the next five years with UBM board representation. UBM's share price dipped 4p to 581p after the announcement.

Briefly

Pilkington Brothers: German subsidiary, Flachglas, has acquired G. B. Holt, glass merchants and processors based in Eindhoven, Netherlands. Consideration paid was less than 1 per cent of value of assets of Pilkington Group.

Centrosil: Dividend 3.3p gross (2.86p) for year to March 3. Net revenue pretax £2.7m (2.145m). Profit attributable £210,000 (£245,000). Eps 5.19p (4.51p). Nav 247p (237p).

Bromsgrove Castings and Machinery: Dividend 3.2p gross (5.7p) for year to March 31. Turnover £3.1m (£3.7m). Pretax profit £180,000 (£256,000). Eps 4.5p (5.9p).

Tomor Kennell and Millbourn has reached agreement in principle for the disposal of its wholly owned offshoot, TKM Forwarding Group, to Bowater Freight Services, a subsidiary of the Bowater Corporation.

Explara Gold: The Council of the London Stock Exchange has given permission for dealings to take place under Rule 163/3 in all of the share capital of Explara Gold (formerly Devnair Holdings) as from July 3.

Bowater Corporation: Contracts have been completed for the sale of Bowater's 50 per cent share in fibres and rubber trading interests to Cargill of Minneapolis.

Sterling Industries: In his annual statement, Sir Nicholas Cyster, chairman, says particularly difficult conditions are likely to remain for some time ahead. As to the company's future, he says he has no realistic forecast, but the company will be hard put to achieve a profit equal to last year's.

Century Oil Group: Chairman Mr. C. H. Mitchell in his annual statement said, during year, a periodic revaluation of assets has increased values by nearly £2m. This will provide a stronger financial base on which to build the future.

UKO International: In his annual review, chairman, Mr. Ian Morrow, states that demand in the current year continues lower than had been hoped.

Amber Industrial Holdings: Mr. G. A. Adkin, chairman, hopes to see some improvement in results for the current year. Board members are confident of an interim dividend in future years.

Delta Group has now concluded sale of its 50 per cent holding in Macdon (Pty) its South African associated company. The sale proceeds including repayment of inter-company balances, amounted to £21.7m and will, in short term, be used to reduce borrowings.

Lincroft suspended pending sale

By Peter Wainwright

Lincroft Kilgour's shares were suspended at 34p yesterday after rising from 28p in a week, and from a low of 17p earlier this year. The textiles group, which owns the bespoke tailors Kilgour, French and Stanbury, yesterday announced that it also planned to sell a substantial part of its business. Discussions were going ahead with an unnamed buyer. It is expected that these talks should finish in about three weeks.

The group's £425,000 before tax last year and went out of the dividend list after paying 5.79p gross a share in 1979. Rescued and the dear pound induced the directors, led by Mr. Tony Holland, the chairman, to close two manufacturing factories in Leeds, and sell the mail order business.

The one remaining clothing factory renewed a large contract for uniforms with a public utility. Shareholders were told in March that profits should be returned to shareholders in the form of dividends was foreseen. Yesterday Mr. Holland said he stood by this statement.

In the year to last September the group ran up net borrowings of £22m. Shareholders' funds were around £33m. The mail order and menswear divisions were expected to fetch more than £700,000, and stock run down was also cutting into debt.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Crds	12%
C. Hoare & Co	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000 or more, 9% over £50,000 10%, 9 1/2% over £50,000 10%.

BIRMINGHAM District Council

Floating Rate Stock 1983/85

for the six months from 3rd July 1981
In 3rd January, 1982
the interest rate on the stock will be 11.875% per annum.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Gross	Yld	Actual	Fully
76	39	39	Airfrance Group	68	-	4.7	6.9	10.8	14.9
52	21	21	Armstrong & Rhodes	47	-	1.4	3.0	19.3	44.8
200	92	92	Bardon Hill	200	-	9.7	4.9	7.5	12.8
104	88	88	Deborah Services	101	-	5.5	5.4	5.0	9.5
126	88	88	Frank Horsell	102	-	6.4	6.3	3.2	5.9
110	39	39	Frederick Parker	65	-	1.7	2.6	28.3	-
110	64	64	George Blair	64	-	3.1	4.8	-	-
112	39	39	Jackson Group	112	-	7.0	6.3	3.5	7.9
130	103	103	James Burroughs	130	-	8.7	6.7	9.5	11.9
334	24	24	Robert Jenkins	314	-	31.3	10.8	-	-
55	30	30	Scotsons "A"	55	-	3.3	9.6	8.5	7.9
224	197	197	Torday Limited	197	-	15.1	7.7	7.6	13.0
90	68	68	Twinklco 19s ULS	79	-	15.0	19.0	-	-
56	35	35	Unilock Holdings	40	-	3.0	7.5	6.2	9.8
103	81	81	Walter Alexander	102	-	1.7	5.6	5.6	9.0
263	181	181	W. S. Yates	250	-	13.1	5.2	4.7	9.6

Outlook for Fiat and VW mixed

Mixed forecasts came yesterday from two of Europe's leading car manufacturers. Fiat's leading private car maker, predicts growth this year but Volkswagen, the West German company, said that its subsidiaries would continue to drag on its profitability.

Signor Agnelli, Fiat's chairman, told the annual meeting that the group would show improvement in all operating sectors and said it expected a 25 per cent rise in sales this year.

First quarter results for 1981 showed car income of 2,500m lire (£11m) compared with 51,000m for all of 1980. A comparable first quarter figure is not available as this is the first year quarterly results are published.

Signor Agnelli added that turnover is expected to rise to 22.7 trillion lire from last year's 18 trillion. Investments will rise to 1.3 trillion from 900,000m last time. Higher borrowing costs, arising from the dollar increase, will lighten the group's total debt by 300,000m lire.

Volkswagen's finance chief, Herr Friedrich Thome, told shareholders that the group's subsidiaries would continue to be a burden overall profits. But he added, VW expected to pay a suitable dividend after cutting last year's payment to DM8 from DM10.

He said the subsidiaries to blame were VW in Brazil and in the United States, both losing-making in 1980, and the loss-making equipment maker, Triumph Adler.

The Brazilian operation is cited as the main reason for the expected decline in VW deliveries worldwide to below 1980's level of 2.44m units. In the first half of 1981 VW Auto sales in Brazil fell 42 per cent to 110,000 units.

Norsk Data seeks London quotation

By Our Financial Staff

Norsk Data, a Norwegian mini-computer group, is applying for a London Stock Exchange listing.

The group is already listed in Oslo but it wants access to a wider capital market for its development and plans to raise further capital, probably through a rights issue, in the next 12 months. It is presently completing a £2m rights issue in Norway.

Norsk Data was set up in 1967 and its profit before tax research income and expenses was 28.1m kroner (about £2.4m) in 1980 against 12.8m kroner. Sales have risen from 80.6m

Kroner in 1976 to 312.9m Kroner last year. At present about 70 per cent of the group's shares are held by the directors and employees. A further 18 per cent is held overseas, of which 7 per cent is held by the Norwegian Government to enable 30 per cent, instead of 20, of its equity to be held overseas.

The group's British stockbroker, Hoare Cowett, is forecasting pretax profits of 38m Kroner this year, the bulk of which is earned in the second half.

Whisky group suspended

By Our Financial Staff

Amalgamated Distilled Products' shares were suspended at 85p yesterday at the company's request after an 18p rise in the shares since June 24. An announcement would be made very soon, a spokesman for the Scotch whisky company said.

James Gulliver Associates owns 10 per cent of Amalgamated Distilled Products. Mr. Gulliver, who is on Amalgamated's board, is also chairman

of Argyl Foods. Speculation in the market last night centred on Amalgamated making an acquisition in exchange for shares, or the possibility that James Gulliver Associates might dispose of 10 per cent holding in the whisky group. Dealers in the shares think a bid for Amalgamated itself is unlikely with the shares so highly priced. The suspension price values the group at £5.6m.

Sharp fall at Thermal Syndicate

By Our Financial Staff

Pre-tax profits of Tyne and Wear-based Thermal Syndicate crashed from £775,000 to £116,000 in the six months to April 30. Group sales were down from £7.54m to £6.86m.

In February, the chairman, Mr. J. E. Bywater, told shareholders that it would be unrealistic to quantify the likely profit performance for the year. Since then, the United Kingdom order intake has not improved and recently there has been a sharp reduction in orders from North American and European customers in high-technology industries. The chairman still expects the second half's profit to be more satisfactory, although it is not expected to equal the figure for last year.

As indicated at the time of the April rights issue, the interim payment is being maintained at 4.28p gross on the enlarged capital.

Thomas Tilling expands in US

The Thomas Tilling Group is extending its interests by the acquisition of the quarry, casting plants and associated physical assets of M. A. Gammone Construction at Providence, Rhode Island, for \$3m (£1.6m) cash.

Tilling's present interests in this industry in the United

States are operated through Tilton Inc, which will be responsible for the management of the acquisition.

Haden moves into West Germany

London-based Haden Ltd is buying Aerotechnik Hahn-Lehr-Sigler of Wendlingen, near Stuttgart, a private company operating as an engineer and contractor for industrial finishing and air-conditioning installations. This acquisition will be used as a base for expansion of the Haden group's industrial finishing business in West Germany. The consideration, payable in cash, will be about £250,000, being the net asset value of the acquired firm.

Bardon Hill tops £2.1m for year

The Bardon Hill Group, the shares of which are traded on the over-the-counter market by M. J. H. Nightingale, managed to push its pre-tax profits up by 9 per cent to £2.1m in the year to March 31. Turnover fell slightly, from £18.9m to £18.6m. The total gross dividend is being lifted from 9.64p to 10.35p.

Leicester-based Bardon is in quarrying, plant and crane hire and civil engineering. Mr. J. Gregory Tom, the chairman,

reports that the group should be able to move ahead satisfactorily with any recovery in the economy.

Tootal plans expansion

Groups have reached an advanced stage with Trubensised Group for the acquisition by Tootal of certain parts of the Trubensised textile interlinings business. It is hoped the negotiations will be concluded within a few days.

When this partial acquisition is completed, Tootal's existing business will be merged with the Trubensised interlinings activity to form a new company, Tootal Trubensised. The enlarged business will be aligned to the Tootal group complex at Clossop.

Staveley Industries' chairman optimistic

Staveley Industries' chairman, Mr. A. Frankel, in his annual statement, said: "Our financial position has never been stronger and our business mix and medium and long-term expansion plans are all moving in the right direction. For the current year, I can only repeat what I said at the interim report stage, that we shall give as good an account of ourselves as circumstances permit."

Blundell optimistic despite dip in first half

By Margaret Fagan

Blundell-Permagel Holdings, the building industry painmaker and supplier, saw profits also in the half-year to April 30 despite a 50 per cent lift in exports. Pretax profits fell from £540,000 to £133,000 on sales virtually static at £10.7m.

The board is predicting that the second-half results will match those in the comparable period last year, and taking into account the stock relief tax proposals, it is looking for an improvement after tax for the full year. Last year: Blundell made £1.8m pre-tax.

The interim dividend is held at 2.28p gross, and the shares gained 1p to 96p in the market yesterday.

Mr. Robert White, the chairman, said yesterday that the recession at home had taken its inevitable toll and that until industrial activity in the country recovered, Blundell's industrial division would continue to have a difficult time.

As it is, this division, which supplies domestic appliance manufacturers and the joinery, general engineering and motor industries, is not expected to make a significant contribution.

Building paints remain the core of Blundell's business, contributing 70 per cent of profits. This division recovered strongly in the last two months of the half as the trade began to re-stock. The industry's forecast is for a 12 per cent volume drop for 1981, but Blundell puts its expected volume decline at 7 per cent.

Exports made a 50 per cent jump from last year's low levels with a lift from sales to the Middle East and Far East. Order books remain good. Mr. White said the building chemicals division only just improved its results, while the Irish activities performed satisfactorily.

Discount market

Day-to-day credit was well in surplus again and the Bank of England mopped up on a moderate scale.

Bids for secured loans were generally in the region of 10 1/2 per cent for much of the session, but the rate slipped down later.

Effective exchange rate compared in 1975, was down 1.0 at 92.1.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Market rates (day's range)	Market rates (close)
New York	1.5125-1.5140
London	1.5125-1.5140
Frankfurt	1.5125-1.5140
Paris	1.5125-1.5140
Brussels	1.5125-1.5140
Copenhagen	1.5125-1.5140
Stockholm	1.5125-1.5140
Oslo	1.5125-1.5140
Stockholm	1.5125-1.5140
Tokyo	1.5125-1.5140
Vienna	1.5125-1.5140
Zurich	1.5125-1.5140

Effective exchange rate compared in 1975, was down 1.0 at 92.1.

Indices

Market rates (day's range)	Market rates (close)
New York	1.5125-1.5140
London	1.5125-1.5140
Frankfurt	1.5125-1.5140
Paris	1.5125-1.5140
Brussels	1.5125-1.5140
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Vienna	1.5125-1.5140
Zurich	1.5125-1.5140

Effective exchange rate compared in 1975, was down 1.0 at 92.1.

EMS Currency Rates

Market rates (day's range)	Market rates (close)
New York	1.5125-1.5140
London	1.5125-1.5140
Frankfurt	1.5125-1.5140
Paris	1.5125-1.5140
Brussels	1.5125-1.5140
Copenhagen	1.5125-1.5140

Among the small touches, boot lid and fuel filler cap can be opened from inside the car and a useful, and timely, feature is a warning chime which makes sure you do not leave the car with the lights on. The verdict is that while the revised Laurel cannot match the best Europeans on handling and ride, it is very competitive on price, fuel consumption and, probably, reliability.

New releases

Into the crowded small car market comes this week a new entrant from Japan, the Suzuki Alto. Just under 11 feet long, it has a 736 cc engine and four passenger doors and the official fuel figures give 42 mpg in town driving. The absence of a tailgate — it has an opening rear window — may limit its appeal, but the price of £2,675 is among the lowest of any car now sold in Britain.

Porsche has announced a new model, the 944, of which right-hand drive versions go into production next spring. It is based on the 924 but has a new aluminium 2.5 litre engine, which develops 163 bhp and is unusual for its size in having only four cylinders.

With a high compression ratio, the car should give around 30 mpg but Porsche enthusiasts may be more interested in the performance figures: 0 to 60 mph in just seven seconds and a top speed of 137 mph. The bodysheet is similar to that of the 924 Carrera GT, with flared wheelarches and a deep air dam, and will be made entirely in galvanneal steel.

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